



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People  
with God's Life-Changing Power*

*“When someone is crying, of course, the noble thing to do is to comfort them. But if someone is trying to hide their tears, it may also be noble to pretend you do not notice them.”*

*–Lemony Snicket, Horseradish*

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
**Lent**  
We prepare

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Sunday March 29, 2020 • 10:00 AM

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*Pastor*

•Allan Lane

*Director of Music*

• David Debick

*Financial Secretary*

• Joy Garapic

*Ministers*

All of our Members

*Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger*

## **Affirmation of Welcome**

**We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.**

*If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,*  
**You Are Welcome Here!**

*If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,*  
**You Are Welcome Here!**

*If you are male, female, or transgender,*  
**You Are Welcome Here!**

*If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,*  
**You Are Welcome Here!**

*If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic,  
Or a life-long member of the UCC,*  
**You Are Welcome Here!**

*If you are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or pangender*  
**You Are Welcome Here!**

*If you are fully abled, or a person with differing abilities,*  
**You Are Welcome Here!**

*Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,*  
**We welcome one another to this place,  
Even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!**



*Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, please speak to our pastor.*

*Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed*

### **Office Hours:**

**Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:00 - 12:00**

**Church Phone: 440-526-4364**

**e-mail: [buccoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## March 29, 2020 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Meditation Music

“You usually can’t recall all the people you’ve shared laughs with. But you rarely forget the people you’ve shared your tears with.” –Mya Roberts, *The V Girl: A Coming of Age Story*

### ***Gathering in God’s Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

### Prelude

Dry Bones

Traditional African American spiritual

"Them bones, them bones gonna walk around;  
Now hear the word of the Lord!"

Based on Ezekiel 37:1-14

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### **Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Light of Christ**

#### **\* Call to Worship**

Leader: Our journey with Jesus is coming to an end. Soon the Palms will wave, the crowds will cheer, and Jesus will enter his last week of life.

**People: We began the journey with ashes and tears; more tears lie ahead before there is joy.**

L: God is with us in the stillness of the journey; God is with us in the solitude of our path;  
God is with us in Jesus, our Emmanuel, God-With-Us

**P: Though we are far from each other, we are close to God wherever we are, for God is with us on every step of our Lenten journey.**

L: In this time of stress, this time of tears, let us put our trust once more in the God who journeys with us. Let us worship God!

#### **\* Hymn of Praise**

We Worship You, God

Attrib. to J. M. Haydn

1. We worship you, God; your pow'r and your love  
are blazoned abroad, around and above:  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

4. Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!"  
Robert Grant, 1833; alt.

**\* Prayer of Honesty Asking For God's Grace [Unison]**

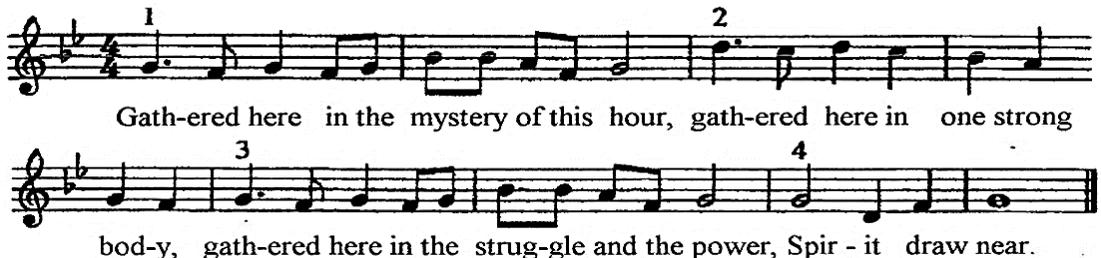
O gracious God, we know that we fool no one if we claim we have no sin, least of all You, so we come before you with the truth about ourselves: We are trapped in sin, just as all humankind has been trapped in sin before us. Our consciences tell us what we have done wrong, but even they fail sometimes, because we are experts at finding excuses for ourselves. Help us to be honest with ourselves, O God, so that we can be more honest with you. Help us to see our own faults as we examine our lives, so that we can ask for your help in setting us straight. Whisper encouragement to us as we uncover our sins, and take them from us as we hand them over to you. Amen

**Words of Assurance**

L: The author of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us: We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have gone on this journey before us. Let us throw off everything that holds us back, and the sin that so easily entangles us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who endured the cross, and scorned its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God, all for the joy of redeeming those who were trapped in sin.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**\* The Song of Praise Gathered Here - #742 [sung 2 times]**



The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "Gath-ered here in the mystery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near." The first staff has a measure number '1' above the first measure and a '2' above the second measure. The second staff has a '3' above the first measure and a '4' above the second measure.

<b>The Old Testament</b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14	
<b>The New Testament</b>	John 11:1-45	
<b>Contemporary Reading</b>	<i>The Killing of Time</i>	Frederick Buechner
<b>Time with Young Worshipers</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	You Will Be Found (from <i>Dear Evan Hansen</i> )	Pasek/Paul
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>Jesus' Tears.....</i>	Pastor Allan Lane
<b>Hymn of Reflection</b>	God Loved the World	Anon., adapt. Miller

1. God loved the world, and loving gave a wondrous gift, the lost to save,  
That all who would in Christ believe  
should everlasting life receive.

2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All who confide in Christ alone  
are built on this chief cornerstone.

3. If you are sick, if death is near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer;  
Christ Jesus saves us all from death;  
that is the firmest ground of faith."  
Based on John 3:16-17

### ***The Church at Prayer***

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**Silent Meditation**

**Prayers of the Church**

**Our Lord's Prayer** *[the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to One's Theological understanding]*  
**...Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive  
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.**

**Organ Response**

## ***Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings***

**\*The Invitation**

**Every offering is a response to God's own offering of grace and life to us. Let us remember to send out our offerings, so that those who need help might be remembered.**

**\* Offertory Hymn**

**We now are in the time of Lent,  
To learn again what Jesus meant.  
His life and message are so great,  
We send these gifts to celebrate. Amen.**

**\* Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**O Divine Healer, we are not present to make these offerings to you, but as we send them out, we ask that you will use them as a witness to your love in our neighborhood. May the church remember the forgotten, grieve the unmissed, bear witness to the lives of those who feel unseen, and stand beside those who are alone. All we do, we do for you, in Jesus' name. Amen**

## ***Holy Communion***

**The Thanksgiving**

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**The Invitation**

**Receiving the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]**

**We thank you, O Risen Christ, that you have given yourself to us in the bread and the wine through the power of the Spirit. As we have opportunity, let us offer what we can of ourselves to others. Amen**

***Going with God's Love***

**\* Hymn of Departure**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Gläser

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace.

2. My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

3. Jesus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease  
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!"

4. Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, ever given  
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven."  
Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

**\*Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**

Acolyte

**\* Circle of Community**

**Hear Our Prayer, O God - sung twice**

*As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Hear our Prayer, O God.** After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, Hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The piece ends with a double bar line.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Faith

Mendelssohn

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

The Family of Rudolph Lorenzo, Max Roha, Nancy Stella, Betty Kaul, Don Seager, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (Niece of Kathy Smith), Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

*(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections or changes to our prayer lists.)*

**BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

**WE WELCOME VISITING PARENTS** - We offer several childcare options and fun activities for kids during worship hour: Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery. Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers. Crayons and paper are also available from ushers for children.

**FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE**, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may be in recovery from addiction.

**STAFF CONGREGATION RELATIONS** is creating a team of member volunteers who might be willing to perform small office tasks on an occasional basis in order to help Jeannette during busy times or when she is out sick or on vacation. These tasks might include answering phones during office hours, copying, folding, stapling, typing, mail distribution, preparing the weekly bulletin, or assisting with the monthly pillar. If you are willing to be called on occasion to perform one or more of these tasks, please contact SCR Chairperson Evie Novak at 440-479-9743 or [evienovak1@gmail.com](mailto:evienovak1@gmail.com). Thank you to David Ritchey, Marge Culver, Jan Renovetz and Jim Duffy who are currently assisting with office responsibilities as needed. We would like to have a few more volunteers, if possible.

## ***Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath<sup>[a]</sup> to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath<sup>[b]</sup> in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath:<sup>[c]</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,<sup>[d]</sup> and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

### **The New Testament - John 11:1-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet

with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said,

“This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus<sup>[b]</sup> was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin,<sup>[c]</sup> said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus<sup>[d]</sup> had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles<sup>[e]</sup> away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.<sup>[f]</sup> Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,<sup>[g]</sup> the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary

came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### **Contemporary Reading - *The Killing of Time in The Hungering Dark* Frederick Buechner**

"Don't forget the cream,' I said. And my wife said, 'Don't forget you're on a diet.' And I said, "Oh well, you only live once.' [Then the woman at the checkout counter said] 'Don't you think once is enough?'...Jesus said, 'Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.' 'Don't you think once is enough?' the woman said. ...Whether one life is enough or not enough, one life is all we get, at least only one life *here*, only one life in this gorgeous and hair-raising world, only one life with the range of possibilities for doing and being that are open to us now. ...The world is full of people who in one way or another are by and large merely getting through their lives, who are killing their time, who are living so much on the surface of things and are so bad at hearing each other and seeing each other that it is little wonder that one life seems enough to them or more than enough. ...There are lots of people who get into the habit of thinking of their time as not so much an end in itself, a time to be lived and loved and filled full for its own sake,

but more as just a kind of way-station on the road to somewhere else, to a better job or the next vacation or whatever, and all the interim time that remains to be killed starts looming up like a great mountain that has to be climbed, so that if there were a little button somewhere that we could push to make it disappear all at once, I am not sure how many of us would have the strength not to push it. ... In this life and in whatever life awaits us, Jesus is the way; that is our faith. And the way he is, is the way of taking enough time to love our little piece of time without forgetting that we live also beyond time.”