



Brecksville

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***

***“Doubt isn’t
the opposite of
faith; it is an
element of
faith.”***

**–Theologian
Paul Tillich**



Doubting Thomas....

Sunday April 19th, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Second Sunday of Easter

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 – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

April 19th, 2020 – Second Sunday of Easter

Meditation Music

“Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.”

— Frederick Buechner

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Alleluia

Manuel

[Performed by University of Santo Tomas Singers; Fidel Calalang, Jr., conductor]

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

* Call to Worship

Leader: The tomb is empty, and Jesus' promises have been fulfilled.

People: Jesus is risen!

L: The first disciples recognized him when he called them by name.

P: He still calls us by name today. Let us listen for his voice in our prayers, songs, Scripture, and in our hearts.

L: Let us enter into our worship with open ears, attentive minds, and expectant hearts. Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Sullivan

1. Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God has brought all Israel into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.
 2. Spring has dawned on earth today; Christ has burst from prison,
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins, long and gray, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.
 3. Now the joyous season, bright with the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joys to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.
- Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696-c. 754), trans. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.

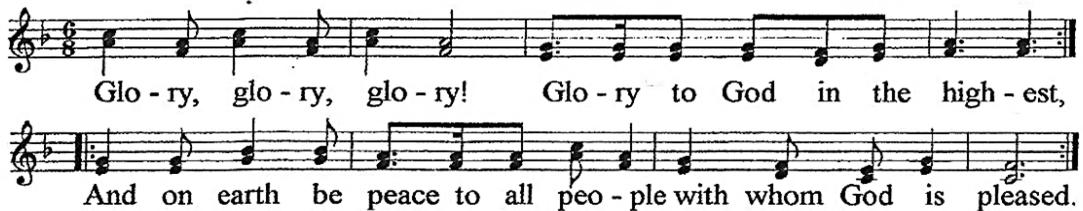
*** Prayer of Approach [Unison]**

O gracious God, your promise of new life comes with a promise of a new way of living as well. You ask us to live as Jesus did, directing our lives towards love for you and for our neighbors. You move us to love for you through showing us how deep is your love for us. You move us to love for our neighbors through showing us how far you have gone to love us. Jesus' resurrection challenges us to a life of love; we accept your challenge. Now empower us through the Spirit and the resurrected Christ to live that life, and to let love be the theme of our lives. Amen

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,
And on earth be peace to all peo - ple with whom God is pleased.

Contemporary Reading

Vincent Van Gogh, from *The Letters of Vincent Van Gogh*

The Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 1:3-9 Pew Bible, page 232

The New Testament John 20: 19-31 Pew Bible, page 114

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering We Walk by Faith Haugen
[Performed by Marty Haugen (b. 1950)]

Sermon **Twinnny McTwintwin** Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing Attrib. to Tisserand

Antiphon: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

1. O sons and daughters, let us sing the flower of heaven, alive as spring,
o'er death today rose triumphing, Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. That Easter morn at break of day, the faithful women went their way
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay, Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. When Thomas first the tidings heard, he counted what they said absurd,
but seeing Christ his faith was stirred: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Antiphon: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Based on Mark 16; John 20

The Church at Prayer

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**

It is in the church that we first see what it means to be a person of faith. By watching how others work out their faith in Christ in their own lives, we learn what it means to live faithfully. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God, and once more reveal a part of what living faithfully means.

Offertory

***Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

O living Savior receive the gifts of your people from the hearts of your people. We send our love as we send our offerings. May the offering we make, make us better people and may the offerings themselves make the world a better place. Amen

Holy Communion

The Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

When we share this sacrament with you, O Jesus, bread is more than bread and the fruit of the vine is more than fruit, for by your Spirit's power you make yourself present to us in our need. Send us forth to do what is right even when it is hard, and make us your people now and always.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

The Day of Resurrection

Smart

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.
John of Damascus, 8th century; trans. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

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

Acolyte

*** Circle of Community - Caribbean melody**

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah**. 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.

Benediction

Postlude

You'll Never Walk Alone

Rodgers

[As sung by the fans at Liverpool Football Club, Anfield Stadium; this tradition developed at Liverpool F. C. after the chart success of the 1963 single of the song by the local Liverpool group Gerry and The Pacemakers. The song's inspirational melody and lyrics are especially relevant now as we battle the latest coronavirus globally].

"When you walk through a storm
 Hold your head up high
 And don't be afraid of the dark.
 At the end of a storm
 Is a golden sky
 And the sweet, silver song of a lark.
 Walk on through the wind,
 Walk on through the rain,
 Though your dreams be tossed and blown.
 Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart,
 And you'll never walk alone,
 You'll never walk alone."

Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

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.

MUSIC - Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, rehearsals for BUCC's music ensembles during the month of May will be cancelled. If the situation changes as May progresses, members of our choirs and instrumental groups will be notified via email. Thank you for your patience and continued efforts to get the current coronavirus pandemic under control. -Dave D.

PFLAG - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This is a local and national organization that has been in the Cleveland Area for 35 years. One of the services provided is a Monthly Support Group Meeting. The group is led by a licensed Psychologist and Social Workers. The purpose is to provide support and education to family and friends of people coming out Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual or Questioning. The group is free and meets at Trinity Cathedral on the second Tuesday of the month 6:45p-8:30p. For more information, call Mark Lehman, LISW at 330.631.4415

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. >

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

Contemporary Reading – Vincent Van Gogh, *Letters of Vincent Van Gogh*

Those who love much, do much and accomplish much, and whatever is done with love is done well.... Love is the best and noblest thing in the human heart, especially when it is tested by life as gold is tested by fire. Happy is he who has loved much, and although he may have wavered and doubted, he has kept that divine spark alive and returned to what was in the beginning and ever shall be. If only one keeps loving faithfully what is truly worth loving and does not squander one's love on trivial and insignificant and meaningless things then one will gradually obtain more light and grow stronger.”

Epistle Lesson - 1 Peter 3:1-9

³ Blessed be the God and Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ! By God's great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The New Testament - John 20: 19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

PARTICIPANTS

April 19, 2020

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs

Responders: James & Valerie Tyler

April 26, 2020

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan

Responder: Julie Bernard