



Brecksville

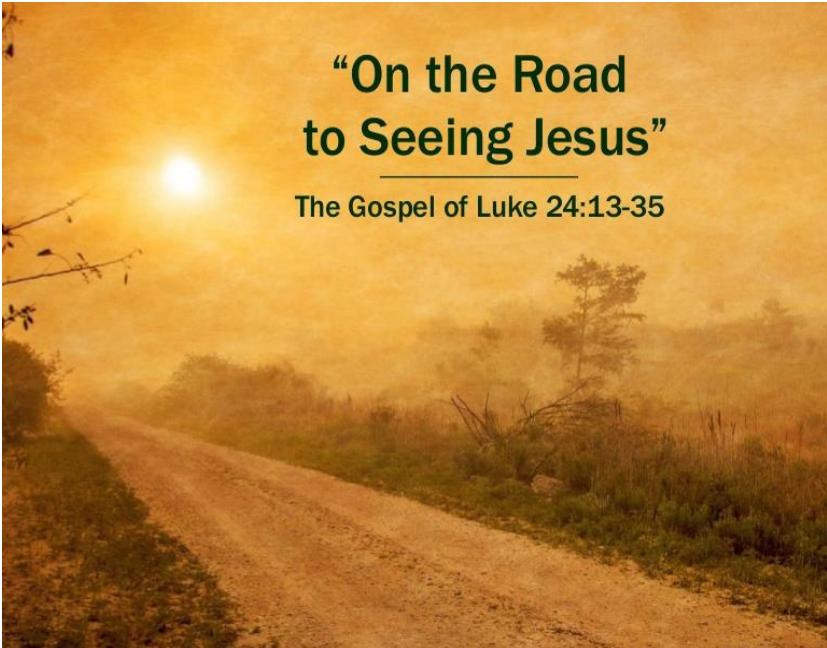
United Church of Christ

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

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

"...they never see what they're in too much of a hurry to look for."

–Norton Juster, The Phantom Tollbooth



***"On the Road
to Seeing Jesus"***

The Gospel of Luke 24:13-35

The Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday April 26th, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Third 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 26th, 2020 – Third Sunday of Easter

Meditation Music

“Looking but not seeing is the hearing but not understanding of the eye.”

— Mokokoma Mokhonoana

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Surrexit Christus

Berthier

[Translation: Christ is risen, alleluia!]

Sing out and praise the Lord, alleluia!

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,
for God's love has no end.

2 The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my song:
God has been my Savior.

3 I shall not die, I shall live,
I shall live and recount God's deeds.

Based on Psalm 118; alt. (from the Taizé Community, France)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Where, O Death, is your sting?

People: Where, O Grave, is your victory?

L: Jesus is not in the grave, and death could not hold him!

P: Thanks be to God who gives us the victory over death and grave through the n

L: Let us enter into our worship with celebration in our hearts! Jesus is risen! Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

18th century German

1. Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled;
But the crucified Redeemer now is risen from the dead!

3. Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face;
That we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.

4. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to the God of joy;
Alleluia to the Savior who came death's bonds to destroy;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.
Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.

*** Prayer of Approach and Adoration [Unison]**

O Risen One, holy and glorious, we come before you in celebration. Yet who are we, that you should die for us and rise for us? Who are we that you should live for us and intercede for us? We are the arms you have called to embrace the world; we are the hearts you have called to love the world; we are the minds you have called to contemplate the world. We are the voices who sing for you, pray to you, speak of you, and welcome in your name; we are the people you have called to live for you in the world. Be with us this day in our worship, that we may become more like you. 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

**Kayko Tamaki on really seeing people
(see Readings)**

The Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 116:1-4; 12-17

Pew Bible, page 564

The New Testament

Luke 24:13-35

Pew Bible, page 90

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Emmaus

Alonso

"It was at table then we knew why our hearts were set ablaze:
This stranger was our brother arisen from the grave!"
Tony E. Alonso, b. 1980; lyrics based on Luke 24:13-35

Sermon

Met But Not Seen

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Sleeth

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in ev'ry silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn for ev'ry darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
Natalie Sleeth, 1985

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**

God calls us to look at the world around us and really see it: see it in all its beauty, see it in all its bounty; see it in all its hurt and neediness. And then God calls us to act with love and grace to spread healing to the hurt and bounty to the needy and hope to the hopeless. May we see what you see, O God, and the opportunities you have given us as we share our offerings.

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]**

On the Road to Emmaus, they could not see Jesus because they were only looking at their own hearts. Help us to look outside ourselves for those you put on our journey, O God, that our actions may be an offering acceptable to you. Amen

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Now the Green Blade Rises 15th century French noel

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

3. Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

John M. C. Crum, 1928; 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

Easter Sunday

Traditional, arr. DSQ

[Performed by the Danish String Quartet]

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 worshipping with us today.

EDNA HOUSE OFFERING – MAY 10 BUCC and Our Church's Wider Mission we will be taking an offering on May 10 to benefit Edna House in Cleveland, Ohio. The mission of Edna House is to assist women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction and to give them a chance at a new life by providing a safe, sober place to live. Edna House is independent of government funding and is sustained only through donations from individuals and businesses in the communities they serve. In addition to cash donations, items needed and appreciated at this time are postage stamps, gift cards to Office Max (for office supplies), and gift cards to Save a Lot, Marcs or Walmart which help with incidental food needs. Please consider contributing to this amazing organization on May 10.

THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY is charged with organizing the Pastor Search Ministry by the end of May. We are looking for 7 church members who desire to serve on this temporary ministry. We need a broad cross-section of our membership: youth, aged, single, married, straight, gay, parents, long-time members, and newer members. Please realize that this commitment will last a year or two. It will take time and dedication. It is a big responsibility, but it is one that is important and necessary. Our plan is to ask for volunteers as soon as possible, then see if we have a good mix of our membership or if we need to seek out others. Please send an email soon expressing your interest and why you want to serve to Bridget Sproul, Leadership Development Chairperson, at sproulbridget@yahoo.com. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this crucial ministry.

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 – Kayko Tamaki, on really seeing people

“It is naive to think you know someone so well.

To think that whatever time you have shared in knowing their habits, their history, their stories, their weaknesses, their strengths, their wounds, and deepest corners of their heart could ever sum them up-- is unjust.

It is a shame to be unaware of the shifts and changes that happen every day, every moment, right before your eyes. The little crinkles around her eyes that get ever-so-slightly deeper and wiser. The silver linings of her hair. The wonders of time and how they show their presence in such ways. You may think that a flower is simply a flower. A flower that looks and smells just as simply as it always has. Or that the ocean is simply salt water and blue. The flower is always moving, changing, blossoming, and giving life to the birds and the bees. The ocean's tides rise and fall with the phases of the moon. The currents change direction. And depending on how the sun hits the water, the colors and shades of blue are in fact, infinite. Everything around you and everyone is always changing. Take time to smell the roses. Take time to watch the tide. Take time to see your love with new eyes. It would be a shame to miss it.”

The Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 116:1-4;12-17

116:1 I love Yahweh, because Yahweh has heard my voice and my supplications.
2 Because Yahweh inclined an ear to me, therefore I will call on Yahweh as long as I live.

3 The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish

4 Then I called on the name of Yahweh: "O Yahweh, I pray, save my life!"

12 What shall I return to Yahweh for all this bounty to me?

13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of Yahweh,

14 I will pay my vows to Yahweh in the presence of all God's people.

15 Precious in the sight of Yahweh is the death of his faithful ones.

16 O Yahweh, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.

17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice, and call on the name of Yahweh.

The New Testament - Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.^[b] Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.^[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah^[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us¹¹ while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

April 26, 2020

**Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Responder: Julie Bernard**

May, 3, 2020

**Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Responder: Sue Maier**