



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*

*"Who then is
the greatest
leader? The
one who has
served the
most."*

–James Hunter

**GLORY AWAITS
THE FAITHFUL**

Acts 7:55-60

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday May 10th, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

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

May 10th, 2020 – Fifth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

Meditation Music

“It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.” –Nelson Mandela

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Spring, Spring, Spring (excerpt 1)

Stravinsky

[Mark Morris Dance Group; Mark Morris, choreographer]

A rendition of *The Rite of Spring*, based on an arrangement of Stravinsky's classic score by acclaimed jazz trio The Bad Plus, who performs live.

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: We live in a world of hurting people, and hurting people often do things that pass that hurt on to others.

People: But God has called us to come and find healing for our hurt, to find an embrace and a safe home in God's arms.

L: It is in worship where we most often encounter God: in the hymns, the prayers, the liturgy, the Scriptures, the preaching, the giving of our offerings.

P: We are hurting people. We need to encounter you, O God, and experience your love. Meet us this day as we worship you. Amen

Hymn of Praise

We Shall Overcome

United States traditional

1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

2. We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll go hand in hand some day.

4. Our God will see us through, our God will see us through,
our God will see us through some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
our God will see us through some day.

5. The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
the truth shall make us free some day.
United States traditional

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

O God, you are the one who tells us to love our enemies and to bless those who curse us. You are the one who calls down forgiveness from the height of a cross. You have told us to forgive others as we wish to be forgiven. And so we come before you now, and we ask you for the strength we need to meet these challenges; we come before you now to ask you to remove the bitterness from our hearts and from the hearts of so many across our divided nation. Help us to find a common reality, a common purpose, and a common future. Help us recognize your image in the people we thought were so unlike us. Give us hope for growth and change in ourselves and in others. Make us all more like Christ, whose love knew no bounds. Amen

Words of Assurance

L: Paul the Apostle wrote to his young colleague, Timothy: "This saying is true and worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst."

P: The good news of the Gospel is that, in Jesus Christ, from worst to best, our sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God! 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 Guest

by Sarah M

Edna House Program Admin.

The Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 2:2-10

Pew Bible, page 233

The New Testament

Acts 7:55-60

Pew Bible, page 126

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Ubi Caritas

Gjeilo

*[Performed by Central Washington University Chamber Choir;
Gary Weidenaar, director]*

Translation: Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Sermon

Stephen Got Stoned

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection

God Our Author and Creator

Southern Harmony, 1835

1. God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,
make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed down-trod;
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.

2. Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve:
when our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
Teach us wisdom and compassion: bid our restless thoughts be still;
by your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will.

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.**

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

The early church gave what they had to support those in need and to continue the work of the church. Let us follow their example in giving what we have to bring a blessing on our community.

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 God of every time and place, take our time in this place and use it to build the promises of Christ. Accept these offerings from your grateful people so that the church can be the church for all people. Amen

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Help Us Accept Each Other

Wesley

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2. Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

***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*

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A

Benediction

Postlude

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

African American spiritual

[Mahalia Jackson, vocalist]

Based on the story of **Joshua** in the Bible. '**Fit**' represents a way of saying '**fought**'. The song tells how **Joshua** captured the city of **Jericho** when he ordered the Israelites to blow trumpets until the walls fell down. It is my hope that, if we can keep "blowing our horns" the right way during this horrible pandemic, the walls that separate us will eventually come tumbling down! -Dave D.

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.

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 Guest - by Sarah M. - Edna House Program Admin.

The Epistle Lesson - 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built^[a] into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him^[b] will not be put to shame.”
To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”
and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,^[c] in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The New Testament - Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.^[a]

MAY 10, 2020 - Mother's Day

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Responder: Diane Gressley

MAY 17, 2020

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Responder: Leroy Ford

Notes from the Mail

***Thanks to the Sunday Zoom team, well done!**

Ed & June Puwal

***Dot and I have been watching the Church Service on the internet and want to thank all those involved. We hope to be back in Brecksville by late May.**

Stay Safe, Dot & Stu Bailey

***We miss everyone!**

Leroy & Kathy Ford

***I haven't been there for a while, I hope to see all of you soon!**

Love, Bob Murphy

HAPPY Mother's
DAY

