



# Brecksville

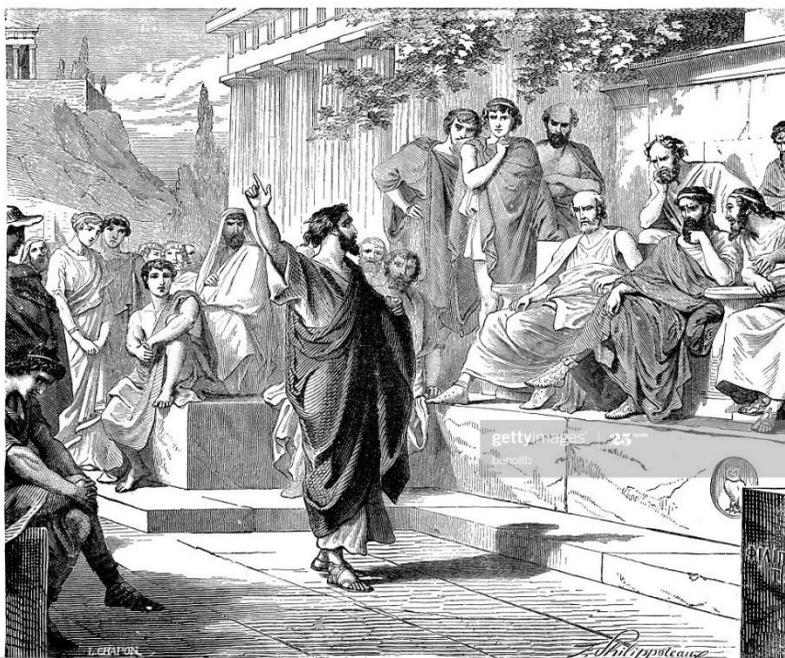
# United Church of Christ

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

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

***“Love is a  
Person Who  
wants to be  
known.”***

**–Catherine  
Toon**



***St. Paul Preaching on the Areopagus, Mars Hill***

**Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 • 10:00 AM**

**Sixth 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.***

*Regardless of your race, creed, ethnicity or age,*

***You are welcome here.***

*Regardless of your gender identity or sexual orientation,*

***You are welcome here.***

*Regardless of your religious background or spirituality,*

***You are welcome here.***

*Regardless of your economic status,*

***You are welcome here.***

*If you have health conditions, impairments or mobility needs,*

***You are welcome here.***

***Whoever you may be, and wherever you are on life's journey,  
we welcome you 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)***

# May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Meditation Music

“In her eye I see that the eagle must even know my name and, by the gaping of her beak, will shortly scream my name, and this terrifies me. For shall my name be screamed in judgment or in blessing? And what shall be my name when it resounds to the four corners of the earth?” –Walter Wangerin, Jr., *Jesus*

## ***Gathering in God’s Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

### Prelude

The Cello Song – Prelude

J.S. Bach/The Piano Guys

*[Steven Sharp Nelson, cello]*

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

#### \* Call to Worship

Leader: God is a Person Who is waiting to be known.

**People: God is known in hymns and Scripture, in dance and in song, in loving and in giving.**

L: God is a Person Who has revealed God’s own self to us in love.

**P: God is known in our parents’ love for us, in our love for others, in the love of Christ for the world. Let us worship God, so that we might know God better!**

### Hymn of Praise

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

On a Welsh ballad

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

4. So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we now render as your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.  
Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

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

**We know, O God, that you love us as a parent loves a child, with an unconditional love. Though we run from you, you will find us. Though we scream out our anger at you, you will continue to love us. Though we may do the opposite of what you have taught us, you will return to teach us in love to do better and to be better. You never give up on us, never abandon us, never give up hope for us. By the power of your loving Spirit surrounding us and inside of us, enable us to change into the people we can be, for you and for the world, and for ourselves. Amen**

**Words of Assurance**

**L:** The Apostle John wrote, "So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

**P:** **The good news of the Gospel is that, through the love of God for us in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven! We have a new life to start afresh and live anew in God. 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 highest,***

***And on earth be peace to all people for God loves us all.***

**The Old Testament**

Psalm 66:8-20

Pew Bible, page 528

**Contemporary Reading**

**Bill Mills, *Adequate: How God Empowers Ordinary People To Serve***

**The New Testament**

Acts 17:22-31

Pew Bible, page 137

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Listen to Our Hearts    S. C. Chapman/G. Moore  
*[Performed by Casting Crowns]*

**Sermon**

***To An Unknown God***

Pastor Allan Lane

**Hymn of Reflection**

Jesus--The Very Thought to Me

Croft

1. Jesus--the very thought to me with sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far your face to see, and in your presence rest.
  
3. O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,  
How kind you are to those apart, how good to those who seek!
  
5. Jesus, our joy, our greatest bliss, and you our prize will be;  
Our glory here and now is this, and through eternity.  
Latin, possibly 12th century, transl. Edward B. Caswall, 1849; alt.

## ***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 Apostle Paul wrote good advice to the Corinthians long ago: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Let us present our gifts and offerings to God.**

**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, you have given us your very self to be known, loved, and worshipped. We give our offerings to you, for in giving, you are known, loved and worshipped from the depth of our hearts. Amen**

## ***Holy Communion***

**The Thanksgiving**

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**The Invitation**

**Receiving the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]**

**It is bread. It is wine. And through the power of the Holy Spirit, it is the body and blood of Christ for us, a gift of inconceivable generosity from God. All glory, thanks, and honor be to you, O Holy One, for joining us to yourself, and to each other, through this sacrament. Amen**

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

**\* Hymn of Departure**

**God Be with You**

**Tomer**

1. God be with you till we meet again;  
By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.  
Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; 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

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: 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 are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Renaissance Recorder Music      Gesualdo, Monteverdi  
*[Performed by Simply Renaissance Recorder Ensemble]*

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

Michelle – friend of Ed & June Puwal, 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](mailto:sproulbridget@yahoo.com). Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this crucial ministry.

## ***Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Psalm 66:8-20**

Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.  
For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.<sup>[a]</sup>  
I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
those that my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*  
Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.  
I cried aloud to him,  
and he was extolled with my tongue.  
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
But truly God has listened;  
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.  
Blessed be God,  
because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.

## Contemporary Reading

### Bill Mills, *Adequate: How God Empowers Ordinary People To Serve*

“We have often done well knowing the mind of God in our churches today. We have not done as well knowing God’s heart. We have largely become a church that pursues insights, principles, and theological concepts. No other church in history has had sounder theology or has known as much about God as many of our churches do today. However, we seem to know so little about God’s heart.

Maybe this has troubled you, too. With all our insight, all our knowledge, all our information, and all our depth of theology, we seem to have so much difficulty functioning in the most basic Christian things, like personal holiness and loving people more than things. In our churches we are so easily hurt, and we hold on to those hurts for so long. We easily walk away from one another and quickly leave our churches when we experience disappointments and failures. There is often much judging and little compassion. Too many people remain alone in their pain.

God desires to reveal God’s heart to us and to build God’s heart into us as we seek God’s face. Insight alone does not transform us; only the things that flow from the heart of God transform the lives of people. As God opens God’s heart to be known by us and as God builds God’s own heart into us, God’s love will flow through us to those who are in desperate need of forgiveness, compassion, healing, and life from God.”

## The New Testament - Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor<sup>[a]</sup> he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God<sup>[b]</sup> and perhaps grope for him and find him—

though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

**MAY 17, 2020**

**Lay Reader: Jon Thompson**  
**Responder: Leroy Ford**

**MAY 24, 2020 – Memorial Day Weekend**

**Lay Reader: Diane Gressley**  
**Responder: Jan Renovetz**

**Notes from the Mail**

**Thank you for always thinking of our residents, and your constant kindness.**

**Love conquers all – this too shall pass.**

**Sincerely,**

**Allison Schiller, Chippewa Residents, and Staff**