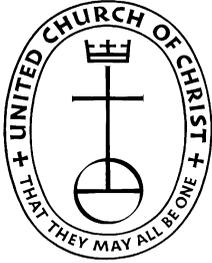


# Brecksville

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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*

*"Oh, are you  
from Wales?  
Do you know a  
fella named  
Jonah—He  
used to live in  
whales for a  
while."  
—Groucho  
Marx*



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**Sunday May 24th, 2020 • 10:00 AM**

**Seventh 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 24th, 2020 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

## Meditation Music

“When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out all right.” –Thomas Edison

## ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**Prelude**

Whale Song

Recorded by Oceania Project

*[Balaena universus hominis = bowhead whale]*

**Bearing the Light of Peace**

**Bearing the Light of Christ**

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

Leader: As the time of our confinement lengthens, and the stress of our solitude builds, let us surrender our worries to God for an hour, and look for joy and fun in community.

**People: Jesus said that he had come to give us life: abundant, joyous, love-filled life.**

L: That's what we're looking for: freedom from all that wears us down, and freedom for all that builds us up.

**P: Meet us in this hour, O God of laughter, God of humor, God of fun. Amen**

**Hymn of Praise**

Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit

Goss

1. Stars and planets flung in orbit, galaxies that swirl through space,  
Powers hid within the atom, cells that form an infant's face:  
These, O God, in silence praise you; by your wisdom they are made.
3. Life in wondrous, wild profusion, seed and fruit, each flower and tree,  
Beast and fish and swarming insect, soaring bird, rejoicing, free:  
These, your creatures, join in chorus, praising you in wordless song.
4. Humankind, earth's deepest myst'ry, born of dust but touched by grace,  
Torn apart by tongue and color, yet a single, striving race:  
We, in whom you trace your image, add our words to nature's song.  
Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1989; based on Psalm 148



1. Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treacherous shoal;  
Chart and compass ever be; Jesus Savior, pilot me.

2. As a mother stills her child, you can hush the ocean wild;  
Boisterous waves obey your will when you say to them, "Be still."  
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

3. When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar,  
Keeping me from peaceful rest, then, while leaning on your breast,  
May I hear your words so true, "Fear not, I will pilot you."  
Edward Hopper, 1871; 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**

**God offers us a chance to support what God is doing in the world through our offerings of our time, our talent and our treasure. Remember to set a portion of each aside each week for joining God at work.**

### **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]**

**We don't know why, O God, that you have chosen to work in the world through us, but you have, and for that we are grateful. Take our small offerings, and multiply them until they overflow the need. May we be the miracle in someone's life that they are waiting for. Amen**

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

**\* Hymn of Departure**

Now Is the Time Approaching

Webb

*[Dedicated to all who have served in our nation's armed forces, especially those who gave their lives to protect our liberties.]*

1. Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold,  
when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.  
Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,  
all earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.

2. Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,  
like mists of early morning before the blaze of day.  
Let all that now unites us more sweet and lasting prove,  
a closer bond of union, in blessed lands of love.

3. O long-expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!  
Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not astray.

O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on  
to pray, and hope, and labor till Christ's new realm is come.

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt.; based on Jer. 33 and Isa. 11 & 61

**\*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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African American spiritual

[Performed by Nashville Bluegrass 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.

**HELLO TO ALL.** With the corona virus pandemic in force, I haven't been able to visit my usual hospice patients, and I have been sending cards once a week for them to enjoy. I have enough cards already made to send one more time so I am asking if any of you would like to make a donation of "used" cards for me to send.

I take the front of card off, repurpose it onto some card stock I have on hand and write a message on the back. I get a list of names from Heartland Hospice and I send them out. It's not quite the same as a visitation but I hope it brings a bit of joy to the patients since no visitors are allowed at this time.

If you have any I can put to good use, just give me a call and I will be happy to stop by and pick them up hanging on your front door. Thanks for helping in this ministry.

Jan Renovetz, 330-467-9357 (landline with ans machine) or cell 330-671-2322

## *Readings*

### *Jonah: A Modern Retelling*

#### **The First Lesson - Jonah 1**

The word of Yahweh came to Jonah son of Amittai, and said, <sup>2</sup>“Go east right now to the great city of Nineveh in Iraq, and call them out, because their wickedness stinks to high heaven” <sup>3</sup>But Jonah set out in the other direction, to flee across the Mediterranean to Tarshish, far from God’s presence. He went down to the port of Joppa, booked a ticket, and climbed aboard the first ship heading west, to get away from God.

<sup>4</sup>But God blew up a great wind on the waters, and such a huge storm came up that the ship was in danger of coming apart at the seams <sup>5</sup>The sailors were afraid, and each of them cried out to their own god for help. It got so bad that they threw all their cargo into the sea, to lighten the ship and keep it afloat.

Jonah, meanwhile, was fast asleep down in the hold of the ship <sup>6</sup>The captain came down and said to him, “What the hell are you doing down here sound asleep? Get up, and call on your god like the rest of us! Perhaps your god will spare us a thought so that we don’t all die.”

<sup>7</sup>The sailors<sup>[a]</sup> said to one another, “Okay, let’s cast lots and see whose fault this is.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>Then they said to him, “What have you done to bring this disaster on us? What’s your job? Where do you come from? What’s your country? What people are you from?” <sup>9</sup>“I am a Hebrew,” Jonah replied. “I worship Yahweh, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” <sup>10</sup>Then the men were even more afraid. They said to him, “What’s your problem, and why is this happening to us?” At this point, the men all knew that he was fleeing from Yahweh’s presence, because he had told them so.

<sup>11</sup>Then they said to him, “What do we have to do to you to make the sea go calm?” because the waves were getting bigger and bigger. <sup>12</sup>He said to them, “Pick me up and chuck me overboard and the sea will quiet down; I know it’s my fault that this great storm has hit the ship.” <sup>13</sup>In spite of Jonah’s words, the men tried rowing hard first, to bring the ship back to land, but the more they rowed, the less headway they made, because the sea pushed back against them <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to Jonah’s god, “Please, O Yahweh, we pray, don’t let us die because of this guy. Don’t hold

us guilty for throwing him overboard if this man is innocent, because this is all just as you wanted, Yahweh.” <sup>15</sup> Then they picked up Jonah and tossed him overboard into the sea; and the sea stopped raging right away. <sup>16</sup> Then the men were even more scared of Yahweh, and they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows.

<sup>17</sup>  As for Jonah, Yahweh provided a big fish to swallow him up; and Jonah was in the fish’s stomach for three days and three nights.

## **The Second Lesson - Jonah 2:10-3:10**

<sup>2</sup><sup>10</sup> While Jonah was in the fish’s stomach, he composed a Psalm to pass the time. Finally, Yahweh spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land. **3** Then the word of Yahweh came to Jonah a second time, and said, <sup>2</sup> “Get up and go east to the great city of Nineveh in Iraq, and tell them what I told you to say.” <sup>3</sup> This time Jonah set out for Nineveh to do what God said. Now Nineveh was a really big city; it took like three days to walk across it. <sup>4</sup> Jonah headed into the city, going about a day’s walk in. And then he cried out, “In forty days Nineveh’s doomed” <sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, from the greatest to the least, put away their regular clothes and put on uncomfortable and unfashionable sackcloth to show their repentance.

<sup>6</sup> When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his robe, put on miserable sackcloth, and sat in a heap of ashes. <sup>7</sup> Then he had this proclamation ring out across Nineveh: “By decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, no herd or flock, shall have anything to eat or drink. <sup>8</sup> Humans and animals shall all wear sackcloth, and they shall all cry mightily to God. All humans and animals shall turn from their evil ways and from their accustomed violence. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God might relent and God’s mind might change. Maybe God’s anger will be appeased by all this, and we might not all die.

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God’s mind changed about the disaster God had planned to bring upon them, and God didn’t do it.

## The Final Testament - Jonah 4

But this really pissed Jonah off, and he got really mad. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to Yahweh and said, “Yahweh! This is just what I said would happen when I was back at home. This is why I took off for Tarshish in the first place; I know you! I know that you’re always finding a way to be gracious. I just knew you’d find a reason to be merciful. You are always so slow to get angry about things, and so full of constant love, and so ready to let the punishment go. <sup>3</sup> Kill me now, Yahweh, I’d rather die than live like this!” <sup>4</sup> And Yahweh said, “Is it really right for you to be this angry?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah left the city and went off to the east of it. He made a little lean-to for himself there and sat under it in the shade, waiting to see whether God would destroy the city after all.

<sup>6</sup> Yahweh made a bush grow up over Jonah while he was waiting, to give him some extra shade and make him more comfortable; Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But as the first fingers of dawn came up the next day, God sent a worm to eat the bush, and it withered away. <sup>8</sup> When the sun fully rose, God sent a miserably hot and humid east wind to blow on Jonah, and set the sun to beat down on Jonah’s head so that he felt faint and asked God to let him die. Jonah said, “I’d rather die than have to live like this.”

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it really right for you to be this angry about a bush?” And Jonah said, “Yes, it is. I’m angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup> Then Yahweh said, “You’re so concerned about a bush, for which you put in no work, that just grew up for you without any effort on your part. It came into being in a night and died in a night. <sup>11</sup> And you think I shouldn’t be concerned about the great city of Nineveh, where more than a hundred and twenty thousand people live, people who don’t even know their right hands from their left? And a lot of animals live there too. What about them?”

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

**Lay Reader: Diane Gressley**

**Responder: Jan Renovetz**

**MAY 31, 2020**

**Lay Reader: Jim Duffy**

**Responder: Jan Renovetz**