



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364
*To be Loving, Serving, and Accepting Of All People with God's
Life-changing Power and Grace*

*“Silence is the
language of
God; all else is
poor
translation.”*

–Rumi, 13th
Century
Persian poet



Sunday June 28th, 2020 • 10:00 am

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

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.

Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated,
or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

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

June 28th, 2020 –Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Meditation Music

“The limits of my language means the limits of my world.”

–Ludwig Wittgenstein, Austrian-British philosopher of language

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

How Great Is Our God

Tomlin

[Presented by Paradosi Christian Ballet Company]

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: When God calls, we must listen to her voice.

People: She is the God who brought us into being, who nurtures us throughout our lives, whose strength carries us through death and beyond.

Leader: God protects our souls with the fierce fury of a mother defending her child.

People: She watches over the poor and the weak with the determination of a woman standing up for her rights.

Leader: God is not limited by the language we use, for it is always inadequate to express the majesty of the One who is God.

People: Let us use what we can find in song, prayer, Scripture, preaching, and silence to worship the God who is beyond words. Amen

Hymn of Praise

Bring Many Names

Young

1. Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! bring many names!
2. Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

3. Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

6. Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!
Brian Wren, 1989

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

O God, you sweep across the face of human history like a wind that leaves everything transformed behind it; you swim in the mighty river of destiny and change its course with the flick of your tail; you catch the scent of a human soul and pursue it until you have it in your embrace. We flee from you like a rabbit flees a fox, like a waterfall flees the heights. We ought to be attracted to justice like a moth to a flame, but instead we slide away from it like water off a broccoli leaf. Forgive us as the spring forgives the fall, as the song forgives the singer, as the lover forgives the beloved. We ask it in the footsteps of Jesus. Amen

Words of Assurance

Leader: Sin crouches, sin pounces, sin devours, but Jesus rescues and redeems from the jaws of sin. In him, our life, once in jeopardy, is safe again.

People: Thanks be to the God who showers mercies upon us like the rains of spring. May the waters of forgiveness bring growth to the seeds of righteousness God has planted in our souls. Amen

***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, for God loves us all.

Biblical Reading

James 3:1-12

Contemporary Reading 1 -

The Kindness of God: Metaphor, Gender, and Religious Language, Janet Martin Soslke,

Contemporary Reading 2 -

Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God, Lauren F. Winner

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Imagine
[Kate Klonowski & Matt Wolbert, vocalists]

Lennon/Ono

Sermon

A Right Hook From Metaphors

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Peace

1. O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in you;
I give you back the life I owe, that in your ocean depths its flow
may swell with ardor true.
2. O Light that follows all my way, to you I yield my flickering flame;
Renew my spirit's feeble ray, that from your brilliant sunlit day
it may new brightness claim.
3. O Joy that seeks me through my pain, to you I cannot close my heart;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and know the promise is not vain
that you will ne'er depart.
George Matheson, 1882; 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

Drop by drop the water wears down the great mountain, until the last grain is carried down to the sea. Penny by penny we fight against injustice, hunger, prejudice and grief until the last grain of despair is carried off into God's great love. 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]**

By human hands these offerings are made; with divine thunder, let their influence be heard echoing around our city and our world. Amen

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

Messiter

1. Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky;
Your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.
2. Bright youth and seasoned age, strong souls and spirits meek,
Raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

5. Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forevermore!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.
Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; 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*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. It consists of two staves of music 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.' Above the first staff, the lyrics are aligned with the notes. Above the second staff, the lyrics are also aligned with the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E above the first staff; A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A above the second staff.

Benediction

Postlude

Cantate Domino (Sing Praise to God)

Monteverdi

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The Family of Jill Black, The Family of Richelle Petras, Sheila Day – friend of the Sniders, 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.

SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM - If you would like to share your musical gifts with the congregation over the summer months, please let Dave D know you're interested, and he will get you signed up. High school students are welcome to participate. We will continue prerecording our musical offerings as long as we're worshiping together via Zoom. If you sign up to sing or play your instrument, social distancing and face mask guidelines will be followed during recording per Gov. DeWine's recommendations. Dave can help you choose music and rehearse with you before recording. Feel free to contact him with any questions.

Readings

Biblical Reading - James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Contemporary Reading 1

The Kindness of God: Metaphor, Gender, and Religious Language –
Janet Martin Soskice

“There are many metaphorical names for God in the biblical literature...but playing a privileged role amongst them are anthropomorphic titles. These personify God, and it seems that the biblical writers were pressed to use anthropomorphism to do justice to a God whose acts they wished to chronicle. This is a God who cajoles, chastises, soothes, alarms, and loves, and in our experience, it is human beings who pre-eminently do these things. Early Christian theologians saw in this plenitude of divine titles a revelation of the manner in which God, while remaining one and holy mystery, in in diverse ways ‘*God with us.*’”

Contemporary Reading 2 - *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God*– Lauren F. Winner,

“Unlike my church, with its four favored metaphors, the Bible offers hundreds of images of God—images the church has paid a great deal of attention to in earlier centuries, although many are largely overlooked now. Drunkard. Beekeeper. Homeless man. Tree. ‘Shepherd’ and ‘light’ are perfectly wonderful images, but in fixing on them—in fixing on any three or four primary metaphors for God—we have truncated our relationship with the divine...How do our images of God—and our resulting images of ourselves (sheep? vassals?)—invite us to become (or interfere with our becoming) the people God means us to be?...If the kind of self-knowledge we seek is precisely knowledge of ourselves, unsheathed, before God, what self-knowledge do we gain when standing (kneeling) before the God who is a tree, a glass of living water, a loaf of bread?”

JUNE 28, 2020

Lay Reader: Ben Tomlinson
Responder: Susan Snyder

JULY 5, 2020

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Responder: Jon Thompson