



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*

*“Don’t judge
each day by
the harvest
you reap but
by the seeds
that you
plant.”*

–Robert Louis
Stevenson



Sunday July 12, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Sixth 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

July 12, 2020 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation Music

“If you cup your hands and stare into them, you will find a handful of the seeds of your own destruction ready to be sown. And if you don’t see any, you’re either blind or you’ve already sown them.”

–Craig D. Lounsbrough

Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude Seeing Deeper: The Heartbeat of God: Sacred Drumming
Led by Katy Gaughan (Drumming for Wellness)

Bearing the Light of Peace
Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship***

Leader: God has called us together this morning to change and grow and know that we are alive!

People: God is at work within us through the power of the Spirit to shape us into what we shall be.

Leader: As the acorn grows into the oak, so must God’s people grow into something more to offer shade and protection to a world burning in the heat.

People: Worship is like water to a thirsty plant; praise is like nutrients to nourish a hungry soul. Let us grow in God as we worship and praise. Amen

*** Hymn of Praise** Praise to the Living God Elvey

1. Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

2. Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

4. Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

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

O God, sometimes you plant a seed in us, and we bury it so deep that it can never reach the surface. Or we might tangle it up in the weeds of our lives, snarling it up in concerns and worries until it can't grow. We might even fail to recognize it as your good seed, and put the weed killer of pessimism and defeat on it. Help your seeds to find good soil in us, so that they can grow into a mighty harvest of goodness and love. In the name of the sower of seeds, Jesus himself, we pray. Amen

Words of Assurance

Leader: In the midst of the city, God can grow a garden of rest for our souls.

People: In the midst of our distress, God offers peace and mercy and comfort. God's forgiveness surrounds us and frees us to breathe again.

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, for God loves us all.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

Contemporary Reading

Antoine de Saint-Éxupery, *Flight to Arras*

New Testament

Matthew 13:1-23

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

How Can I Keep from Singing

Composer: Attrib. to Robert Lowry

[Becky Anderson, flute]

Sermon

Seed and Soil

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

1. Almighty God, your Word is cast like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend and righteous fruits abound.

2. Let not the sly satanic foe this holy seed remove,
But give it root in every heart to bring forth fruits of love.

3. Let not the world's deceitful cares the rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold the fruits of peace and joy.

4. So when the precious seed is sown, your quickening grace bestow,
That all whose souls the truth receive its saving power may know.
John Cawood, 1815; 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.

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

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]**

Humans plant and water, but God gives the growth. May you bring rich growth in our church and in our community through these seeds we plant today, O God. Amen

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Come to Tend God's Garden

Vaughan Williams

1. Come to tend God's garden, seeds of hope to sow,
planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!
In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant heath!
In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!

2. As we tend God's garden, from its furrows rise
stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root,
unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!

3. May God's garden flourish, may our toil succeed,
may God bless our actions, every word and deed!
Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram,
charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand!
John A. Dalles, 1992

***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 a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on the top staff, and the bass line is on the bottom staff. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' repeated twice.

Benediction

Postlude

Baba Yetu (Heavenly Parent, Who Art in Heaven)

Tin, arr. van der Merwe

Stellenbosch University Choir (South Africa)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Don Seager, Curt Bailey, 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 worshipping with us today.

Readings

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Contemporary Reading

“Life always bursts the boundaries of formulas. Defeat may prove to have been the only path to resurrection, despite its ugliness. I take it for granted that to create a tree, I condemn a seed to rot. If the first act of resistance comes too late, it is doomed to defeat. But it is, nevertheless, the awakening of resistance. Life may grow from it as from a seed.”

–**Antoine de Saint-Éxupery**, *Flight To Arras*

New Testament - Matthew 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

'You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.'

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble

or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

JULY 12, 2020

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Responder: Kathy Smith

JULY 19, 2020

Lay Reader: Ben Tomlinson
Responder: Julie Bernard