

# Brecksville

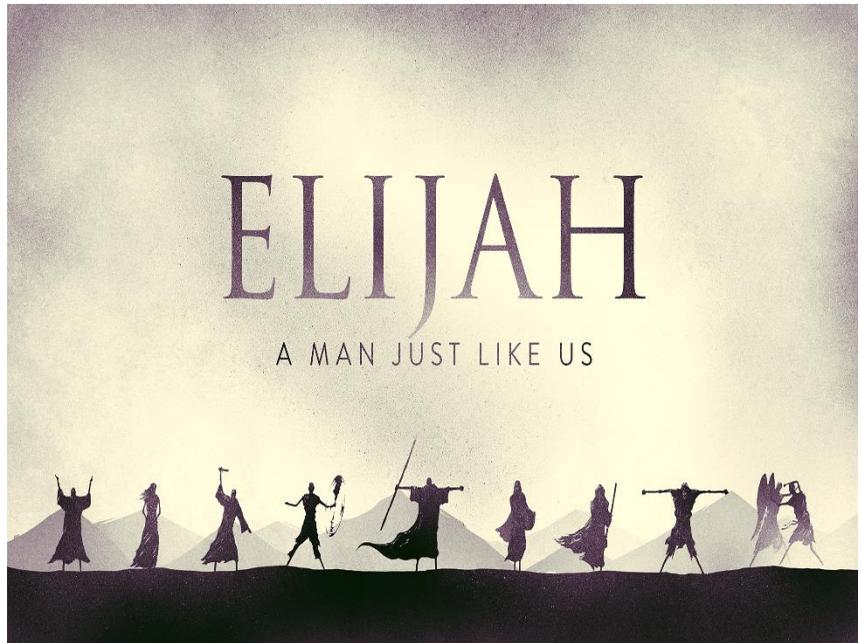
## United Church of Christ

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*

*"We're all  
islands  
shouting lies  
to each other  
across seas of  
misunderstand  
ing."*

*–Rudyard  
Kipling, The  
Light That  
Failed*



**Sunday July 19, 2020 • 10:00 AM**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

*Pastor*  
• Allan Lane

*Director of Music*    *Financial Secretary*    *Ministers*  
• David Debick    • Joy Garapic    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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## July 19, 2020 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

### Meditation Music

**“But most days I wander around feeling invisible, like I’m a speck of dust floating in the air, that can only be seen when a shaft of light hits it.”**

–Sonya Sones, *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies*

### ***Gathering in God’s Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

#### **Prelude**

Relaxing Nature Sounds - River Noise and Birdsong

Location: White River, Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, Russia

#### **Bearing the Light of Peace**

#### **Bearing the Light of Christ**

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

Leader: O God, it wouldn’t be the same without you here, so we call on you to join us in worship.

**People: God in turn calls us to come to worship, saying, “It wouldn’t be the same without you here, either.”**

Leader: Let us feel your breath within us, O God, as you fill us with the Holy Spirit; let our hearts beat faster with your presence.

**People: God whispers beneath our songs and liturgy; God hints at divine presence in the readings; God sighs through the prayers.**

Leader: We are not alone because God is with us, Immanuel. Let us worship God!

#### **\* Hymn of Praise**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Adapt. from 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]**

**Sometimes we seem like someone else, even to ourselves, O God, and we do things and we say things that just aren't like us. We fall into old patterns we'd sworn to give up, and drop into old ways that have not brought us the happiness they promised. We have everything to lose, but we go too far. We just keep on falling when you have helped us up. Steady us in faith; secure us in your embrace; keep us in your smooth way. Lead us into a sure future in you, O God. We ask it through the presence of Christ. Amen**

**Words of Assurance**

Leader: May God the Parent bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to God's heavenly country, where God lives and reigns forever. (From the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*)

**People: Amen, amen, O God, a thousand times 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.

**God Is Still Speaking**

**Contemporary Reading**

*Still*, Lauren F. Winner

**Old Testament**

**1 Kings 19:8-18**

**New Testament**

**Romans 8:31-38**

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

In Your Silence  
*[Jon Thompson, bass]*

Rice

**Sermon**

***Feeling Isolated***

Pastor Allan Lane

**Hymn of Reflection**

In Solitude  
Trad. United States melody; harm. A. M. Buchanan, 1938

1. In solitude, in solitude, I come to God in prayer.  
In silence and simplicity, my spirit blossoms there.

2. Whene'er the world is troubling me, and stress is all around,  
I seek the presence of my God, and healing light is found.

3. In seasons of perplexity, in times of deep despair,  
I light a candle in the night and turn to God in prayer.  
Ruth Duck, 1983

## ***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**

**Leader: Fix your eyes on Jesus and see what is his love for the world around us. Feel his love in your own heart, and help the church to meet the needs of our friends and neighbors. Give so that others may not feel so alone.**

### **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]**

**May our love for you, O God, translate into love for our neighbors, and thus fulfill the great commandments: that we should love you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.**

## ***Holy Communion***

### **The Thanksgiving**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Prayer of Consecration**

### **The Invitation**

### **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]**

**We came to the table apart, but we rise from the bread and the wine as the body of Christ, united with Christ and with each other through the sacrament. Thanks be to God, who never leaves us on our own. Amen**

## Going with God's Love

### \* Hymn of Departure

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

*The Parish Choir, 1850*

1. Christian, rise and act your creed; let your prayer be in your deed;  
Seek the right, perform the true, raise your work and life anew.
2. Hearts around you sink with care; you can help their load to bear;  
You can bring inspiring light, strengthen them to do the right.
3. Offer others hope and joy, and God's worship your employ;  
Giving thanks in humble zeal, learning all God's will to feel.  
Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; 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*

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 in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is the vocal line, and the second is the piano accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above and below the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

### Benediction

### Postlude

A Quiet Place - Orchestral Suite - 6. Postlude to Act I

Bernstein

*[London Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor]*

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

The Family of Don Seager, Curt Bailey, Sheila Day – friend of the Sniders, Michelle – friend of Ed & June Puwal, Max Roha, Nancy Stella, Betty Kaul, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (Niece of Kathy Smith), 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***

### **Contemporary Reading**

“But there is one desert teaching that always stops me. At the center of this teaching is a young man who has gone into the desert to pursue the holy life. After a year or two of fasting, praying, and meditation on the Word, he begins to feel that his rule of life is not rigorous enough, so he goes to his teacher and asks for a more stringent discipline. The teacher replies, ‘Simply do this: go back to your cave, pray as you usually pray, fast as you usually fast, sleep when you are tired.’ The student, disappointed by this less than scrupulous response, goes to a second teacher and again asks for a more stringent rule. The second teacher says, ‘Go back to your cave, pray as you usually pray, eat when you are hungry, drink when you are thirsty, sleep when you are tired.’ Frustrated, the young man goes to a third teacher who tells him, ‘Just go back to your cave.’ The point, I think, is that you can’t simply pursue God in the desert; you must also begin to pursue yourself. You cannot fast if you have not first noticed that you are hungry; your hunger is what the cave can teach. It seems to me that [my friend] Ruth is saying much the same thing when she tells me to sit with the loneliness for ten minutes, for five, before picking up the phone, pouring the drink, driving to the mall. Sit with the loneliness and ask what the loneliness has for you.” **–Lauren F. Winner, *Still***

### **Old Testament - 1 Kings 19:8-18**

He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

### **New Testament - Romans 8:31-38**

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers.

**JULY 19, 2020**

**Lay Reader:**

**Ben Tomlinson**

**Responder:**

**Julie Bernard**

**JULY 26, 2020**

**Lay Reader:**

**Jon Thompson**

**Responder:**

**Jan Renovetz**