



# Brecksville

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# 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*

***"Sometimes  
when you  
sacrifice  
something  
precious,  
you're not  
really losing it.  
You're just  
passing it on  
to someone  
else."***

***–Mitch Albom,  
The Five  
People You  
Meet in  
Heaven***



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**Sunday July 26th, 2020 • 10:00 AM**  
**Eighth 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

## Meditation Music

**“The Seven Social Sins are: Wealth without work. Pleasure without conscience. Knowledge without character. Commerce without morality. Science without humanity. Worship without sacrifice. Politics without principle.”**

**–Frederick Lewis Donaldson, Sermon in Westminster Abbey, London, on March 20, 1925**

## ***Gathering in God’s Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

## **Prelude**

The Sunken Garden (Improvisation)

*[Nadia Birkenstock, Celtic harp; Mauro Rampazzo, mandolin]*

## **Bearing the Light of Peace**

## **Bearing the Light of Christ**

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

Leader: God has never let us down; God has turned the world around for us, so that now death is swallowed up by life in Jesus Christ.

**People: Our tears shall be turned to laughter, our mourning to rejoicing, our temporary loss to eternal gain.**

Leader: God loves us and has broken the chains of our captivity to sin and death. God has done for us more than what we could ever have deserved.

**People: Let us worship the God who has set us free and relieved our fears. Amen**

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

Come Now, Almighty God

Giardini

1. Come now, Almighty God, help us your name to laud;  
our songs we raise:  
Ruler all glorious, o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!
2. Come now, Incarnate Word, by heaven and earth adored;  
our prayer attend:  
Come, and your people bless, and give your word success;  
grant us your holiness, Savior and Friend!
3. Come, Holy Comforter, your sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour.

Your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,  
never from us depart, Spirit of power!  
Anonymous, English; c. 1757; alt.

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

O God, there are things we've done which we regret. We should've known better than to do them, but we did them anyway. Now our holiness seems like a faded photograph of what once was, a time long ago, to which we can't return. But you can take the washed-out memory of what we might have been and restore the color of our holiness to us, so that we are vibrant and alive again, ready to seek justice and do what's right. Let us reflect your light like a rainbow of mercy and grace to a world bathed in suffering gray days. We ask it because Jesus is risen. Amen

**Words of Assurance**

Leader: Because of your love for us, O God, we find our forgiveness in you.

People: No matter how we came here, no matter what sin covered us, no matter how damaged our souls were, we will leave from here cleansed and forgiven, made whole and set free. Thanks be to God in Christ! 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**

Psalm 105:1-11; 145b

**Contemporary Reading**

*Factotum*

**Charles Burkowski**

**New Testament**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**Time with Young Worshipers**

## Welcoming AI Klonowski as a Member of the Church

The Constitution of BUCC states that: “Members of this church shall be persons who affirm publicly with God and with one another the following covenant.” AI Klonowski has indicated his desire to be a member of this church, and his willingness to affirm the covenant that the church constitution requires. Let all the members join AI in affirming the covenant together.

*Believing in God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, we dedicate ourselves and our Church to the service of God's realm. Depending as our forebears in the faith upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in truth, we covenant with God and one another to worship, work and serve together, that we may express through our church and our lives the love and faith of Jesus Christ.*

**Musical Offering**                      Just a Little Seed (I've Got Potential)                      Buchanan  
*[Liz Buchanan, vocalist; Eric Kilburn, mandolin solo]*

**Sermon**                                      **What's It Worth To You?**                      Pastor Allan Lane

**Hymn of Reflection**                      Be Now My Vision                      Traditional Irish melody

1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart;  
nothing surpasses the love you impart--  
You my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

2. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
you, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, my we never part.

4. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905

## ***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

**Whatever is holding you back, whatever is making you clench your hand, let it go, relax your grip, and stride forward in faith. Offer your time, your talents, your gifts to God to make the world a better place. Present your 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]**

**When we commit ourselves to you, O God, we know we can expect great things. Your promises are ancient, but they aren't worn out. Receive our devotion in every form as we present our offerings, and use everything we are, and everything we have, to make the world the world of your dreams. Amen**

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

##### **\* Hymn of Departure**

We Love Your Realm O God

*Williams' New Universal Psalmodist, 1770*

1. We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.  
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.

2. We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life  
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.

5. Beyond our brokenness, we seek to know your ways  
Of deep communion, solemn vows, and hymns of love and praise.  
Timothy Dwight, 1801; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 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 two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the vocal line, and the second is for the piano accompaniment. Chords are indicated above and below the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

No. VIII. Vif (from *Suite Provencale*)

Milhaud

[Luxembourg Radio Orchestra, Louis de Froment, conductor]

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

The Family of Don Seager, Curt Bailey, Sheila Day – friend of the Sniders, Bob R, and Julie J. Friends 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 worshiping with us today.

### ***Readings***

#### **Old Testament Reading - Psalm 105:1-11; 145b**

<sup>1</sup>O give thanks to Yahweh, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples. <sup>2</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works. <sup>3</sup>Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek Yahweh rejoice. <sup>4</sup>Seek Yahweh, seek God's strength; seek God's presence continually. <sup>5</sup>Remember the wonderful works God has done, God's miracles, and the judgments God uttered, <sup>6</sup>O offspring of God's servant Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones. <sup>7</sup>God is Yahweh, our God; God's judgments are in all the earth. <sup>8</sup>God is mindful of God's covenant forever, of the word that God commanded, for a thousand generations, <sup>9</sup>the covenant that God made with Abraham, God's sworn promise to Isaac, <sup>10</sup>which God confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, <sup>11</sup>saying, 'To you will I give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.' <sup>45b</sup>Praise Yahweh!"

#### **Contemporary Reading - Charles Burkowski, Factotum**

"If you're going to try, go all the way. Otherwise, don't even start. This could mean losing girlfriends, wives, relatives and maybe even your mind. It could mean not eating for three or four days. It could mean freezing on a park bench. It could mean jail. It could mean derision. It could mean mockery—isolation. Isolation is the gift. All the others are a test of your endurance, of how much you really want to do it. And, you'll do it, despite rejection and the worst odds. And it will be better than anything else you can imagine. If you're going to try, go all the way. There is no other feeling like that. You will be alone with God, and the nights will flame with fire. You will ride life straight to perfect laughter. It's the only good fight there is."

## **New Testament - Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

### **JULY 26, 2020**

**Lay Reader: Jon Thompson**  
**Responder: Jan Renovetz**

### **AUGUST 2, 2020**

**Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul**  
**Responder: Cliff Cribbs**