

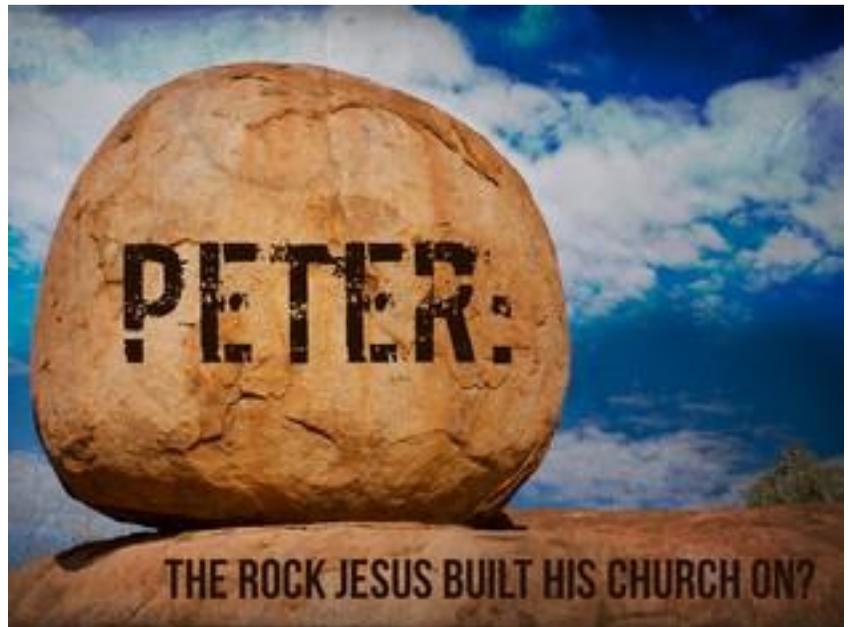
Brecksville

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 know
what we are
now, but not
what we may
become."*

–William
Shakespeare,
Ophelia, in
Hamlet



Sunday August 23rd, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Twelfth 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

August 23rd, 2020 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation Music

“Perhaps it’s impossible to wear an identity without becoming what you pretend to be.”

–Orson Scott Card, *Ender’s Game*

Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Will You Come and Follow Me?

Scottish traditional, arr. Bell

[St. Andrew’s Metropolitan Cathedral, Glasgow, Scotland]

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

* Call to Worship

Leader: You are with us in every breath we take, O God; you walk with us in every step along the way; you hold onto us through every mistake we make.

People: You are who you are: ever constant, ever faithful, ever loving, ever forgiving. Your endless, infinite love rises like a flame from your inner being.

Leader: You share your love with us, whom you have called your people. You embrace us as your own, in all our complexity, all our twistiness, all our ambiguity.

People: In vain do we hide ourselves from you; you know us and you love us, as Christ showed in his life. Let us now answer your love with our worship! Amen

* Hymn of Praise

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!

Refrain: 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. *Refrain*

3. With voice as full and strong as ocean’s surging praise,
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days. *Refrain*
Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

*** Prayer of Approach and Confession**

Leader: This world, in its endless challenges, reveals who we are over and over again. We face tests of character every day; we encounter stumbling blocks to trip us up each week; we often come shining through, but we also often fall. Forgive us, O God, for the harm we have done to our relationship with you, to your creation, to each other. Forgive us, and allow us to repent and do better. Amen

Words of Assurance

People: O God, you gave us your all when you gave us Jesus. No matter how much this world tests us, no matter how much we fail and fall down, you have forgiven us in Jesus. In him, we have eternal life. Thanks be to you, O God, in Jesus! 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.

New Testament

Matthew 16:13-27

Contemporary Reading

Self-Rejection

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Who Am I
[Performed by Casting Crowns]

Hall

Sermon

Who Am I? Who Are You?

Pastor Allan Lane

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2. Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.
Fred Kaan, 1974; 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

**You call us to dance with you, O God, and together turn the world into a
celebration of love and gratitude. As we present our offerings to you today, let us
be dancers!**

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 the song we hear be the wedding song of the church, the bride of Christ, and
may the dance we dance be the dance of love we dance with you, our beloved God.
Accept our gifts and offerings and give the world a twirl with them. Amen

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Smart

1. Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;
loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.

2. Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
for in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

3. Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each other for all eternity.
Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; 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 a musical score for two staves in G major (one sharp). The top staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords above the staff are: A (above G), E (above B), A (above C), D (above D), Bm (above E), and E (above G). The bottom staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords below the staff are: A (below G), C#7 (below B), F#m (below C), Bm (below D), E7sus4 (below E), E7 (below G), and A (below G).

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata for Brass Quartet and Organ

Stamm

[Ramsøe-Quartet: Dominik Stegemann & Michael Althoff: trumpets, Holger Hansen: tenor trombone, Martin Jannasch: bass trombone; H. A. Stamm: organ]

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Joanne Cook, 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

New Testament Reading - Matthew 16:13-27

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

Contemporary Reading – Henri J.M. Nouwen

“Over the years, I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity, or power, but self-rejection. Success, popularity, and power can indeed present a great temptation, but their seductive quality often comes from the way they are part of the much larger temptation to self-rejection. When we have come to believe in the voices that call us worthless and unlovable, then success, popularity, and power are easily perceived as attractive solutions. The real trap, however, is self-rejection. As soon as someone accuses me or criticizes me, as soon as I am rejected, left alone, or abandoned, I find myself thinking, "Well, that proves once again that I am a nobody." ... [My dark side says,] I am no good... I deserve to be pushed aside, forgotten, rejected, and abandoned. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved." Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence.”

AUGUST 23, 2020

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Respondent: Leroy Ford

AUGUST 30, 2020

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Respondent: Sue Stenzel