



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*

***“Resentment
is like drinking
poison and
then hoping it
will kill your
enemies.”***

**–Nelson
Mandela**



Sunday September 13th, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor

• Allan Lane

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers

All of our Members

Office Manager – Anne Melfo

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

September 13th, 2020 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Meditation Music

“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.”

–Nelson Mandela

Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Breath (from: Letting Go Circle Dance)

Helen Jane Long

Choreography by Lesley Laslett

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

* Call to Worship

Leader: God’s call goes out to all: “you are welcome here.”

People: To those who need forgiveness, God says, “You are welcome here. Come and worship.”

Leader: To those who need the strength necessary to forgive, God says: “You are welcome here. Come and worship.”

People: To those who are part of the human family, whether surrounded by love or estranged completely from others, God says, “In this place, you are welcome. Come and worship.”

Leader: God’s welcome is our welcome. Come and worship God!

Hymn of Praise

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

Attrib. to C. F. Witt

1. O my soul, bless your Creator; all within me bless God's name;
Bless your Maker, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.
2. God forgives all your transgressions, all who suffer, gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.
3. Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin;
Like a mother and a father, God compassionate has been.
(Anonymous; *United Presbyterian Book of Psalms*, 1871; alt.)

Prayer of Approach and Confession [Unison]

Peter asked Jesus, “If a member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Peter, O Peter, have you forgotten how many times you have sinned? Has it slipped your mind that you need to be forgiven over and over? Are you not a member of the church in the same position, Peter? Aren’t we all? O God, our merciful God, as we draw near to you, draw near to us with your Spirit, and give us insight into the areas where we need to repent and be forgiven. Let the eyes which so quickly see someone else’s sins see our own as well. Amen

Words of Assurance

Leader: Jesus told Peter, “Not just seven times, but seventy times seven times ought you to forgive another,” for so often has God forgiven you!

People: **We forgive others because we have been forgiven by God. As far as east is from west, so far has God removed our sins from us. They are gone, remembered no more. We are free for the life which lies ahead. Thanks be to God! 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.

God Is Still Speaking

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 103: 8-13

God’s mercy

New Testament

Matthew 18: 21-35

Forgiveness in abundance

Contemporary Reading

Forgiveness

Henri J. M. Nouwen

Musical Offering

Somewhere

Bernstein/Sondheim

*Nadine Sierra, vocalist; Robert Spano conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra***Sermon*****Seventy Times Seven***

Nayiri Karjian

Hymn of Reflection

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Benoit

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound;
3. Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
Be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours Christ's holy peace.

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**

Leader: Wouldn't it be nice if there were no more poverty, or homelessness, or hunger, or loneliness, or hatred or rejection? The church is working to bring that day to life. Let us do our part. Let us present our gifts and offerings.

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]

O God, you are the one who multiplies what is small into what is great. You are the one who takes what we can give and turns it into what the world needs. Accept these gifts and offerings from our hands as a down payment on our willingness to give ourselves for you. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

God, We Thank You for Our People

Moore

1. God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.
3. Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame
You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!
4. By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

*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*

A musical score for the hymn "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." The score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is on the top staff, and the bass line is on the bottom staff. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

Lyrics: 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.

Benediction

Postlude

Umoja (Translation from Swahili: "unity")
 Performed by Imani Winds; flutist Valerie Coleman, composer

Coleman

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The Family of Jean and Bob Murphy, Phyllis Hassler, 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.

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

Old Testament - Psalm 103:8-13

⁸Yahweh is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹Yahweh will not always accuse, nor will Yahweh remain angry forever. ¹⁰Yahweh does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Yahweh's steadfast love toward those who revere Yahweh; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far has Yahweh removed our transgressions from us. ¹³As parents have compassion for their children, so Yahweh has compassion for those who revere Yahweh.

New Testament - Matthew 18: 21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Readings (continued)

Contemporary Reading

“Forgiveness”

Henri J. M. Nouwen

“Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that all people love poorly. We need to forgive and be forgiven every day, every hour increasingly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family.”

September 13, 2020

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan

Responder: Jon Thompson

September 13, 2020

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley

Responder: Betsey Wilson