



# 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*

***“Choosing is existence. To the extent that you don’t choose, you don’t exist.”***  
–John Barth,  
American  
Postmodernist  
and Meta-  
fiction Author



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**Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 • 10:00 AM**

**Sixteenth 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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

## September 20th, 2020 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

### Meditation Music

“Choosing a way to die, what’s the difference? Choosing a way to live, now that’s the hard part.”

–Robert Ryan, Actor

### ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**Prelude**                      Oh Lord I Want You to Help Me                      Winans/Riley  
   *Pastor Marvin Winans & Carolyn Bryant, soloists;*  
   *Classical Roots Community Mass Choir, A. Michael Cunningham, conductor*

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

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

Leader: God is calling us to live a life of love, a life of self-giving, a life of justice, and a life of courage.

**People: We are led each moment to decide how to live, who to listen to, what to do.**

Leader: Day by day, choice by choice, we build our character and our reputation. Every choice we make becomes part of our story.

**People: The choices we make, make us who we are: they turn us into who we will be, one choice at a time.**

Leader: Let us choose God’s way, God’s love, God’s destiny. Let us worship God!

**Hymn of Praise**                      A Mighty Fortress Is Our God                      Luther

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,  
Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe  
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth without an equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!  
With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave,  
Christ will prevail triumphant.

## Hymn of Praise

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (continued)

3. And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.  
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them;  
their rage we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure:  
one little word shall fell them.

4. That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill; God's truth shall triumph still;  
God's reign endures forever.

(Martin Luther, c.1529; transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981)

### Prayer of Approach and Confession [Unison]

**O God, let us approach our worship of you with reverence and delight. Let us come to you with the trust of children running to a Parent. We wish we could come with the innocence of children, too. But when we look around at the world, it seems something's always wrong. We look and we say to ourselves, "It's not supposed to be like this. That's not right." The rich have enough for a hundred lifetimes, the poor don't have enough to last the week. One person gets ahead because of the color of his skin, another person's pay falls behind because of her gender, a third person doesn't get considered for a job because of her sexuality, a fourth is regarded as incompetent because of his age, and on it goes. And even though we didn't build it, it's a system we have to live in, and living in it we become a part of it, and we become part of what's not right. Forgive us, and help us to find a way to change the system, and to change ourselves within it, so that all people can live in dignity before you. Amen**

### Words of Assurance

Leader: We do what we've decided not to do, and we don't do what we've decided we want to do, and there is no health in us, as Paul the Apostle said. Who can bring us to health?

**People: Christ can, for in Christ, we can have a new life, not just individually, but together as a community and as a society. Thanks be to God for hope in a time of despair. Amen**

## \*Song of Praise

### Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Musical notation for the song 'Glory to God' by Pablo Sosa, 1988. The notation is in G major, 8/8 time, and consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody and lyrics: 'Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.' Chords F, C, F, and C7 are indicated above the notes.

## God Is Still Speaking

First Campaign Lesson

Matthew 4: 1-11

A debate between Jesus and Satan

Second Campaign Lesson

John 8: 42-45

Jesus talks about his opponent

Musical Offering

Don't Tread on Me

*Written & performed by We the Kingdom*

Sermon

***Jesus for President!***

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Mann

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:  
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
2. O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will!  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!  
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!  
(John E. Bode, 1868; 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.**

### ***Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings***

**The Invitation**

Leader: Where God's rule is complete, it is a banquet, with enough for everyone. Where God is present, it is a celebration, with joy enough to go around. All will live from a sense of abundance and no more from a sense of scarcity. Let us begin this abundant living now, to heal the scarcity in the world. Let us present our 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]**

**By our choices you can reshape the world, O God. We ask that you will accept these offerings as signs of our willingness to vote for you in our lives, and to live as people who have chosen you to be their leader. Amen.**

### ***Holy Communion***

**The Thanksgiving**

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**The Invitation**

**Receiving the Bread and Cup**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

You chose to leave the praises of the seraphim and cherubim and take on human flesh and become one of us, O God, and to subject yourself to both cheers and jeers from the people of this world. Throughout it all, you showed us grace and love and forgiveness, and finally you gave yourself for us. We celebrate that in the bread and wine of the sacrament which lies before us, and we offer you our thanks and praise. Amen

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure                      We Shall Overcome                      United States traditional

1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.

4. Our God will see us through, our God will see us through,  
our God will see us through some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, our God will see us through some day.

5. The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,  
the truth shall make us free some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, the truth shall make us free some day.

\*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 for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff is for the vocal line, and the second staff is for the piano accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above and below the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Lord of the Dance  
(based on American Shaker song, "Simple Gifts")  
*Will Millar, vocalist*

Carter

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

Elizabeth Gadus, the loved ones 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 worshipping with us today.

**AUTUMN MUSIC INVITATION** - Because of ongoing precautions due to COVID-19, our choirs and instrumental groups will continue to refrain from rehearsing and presenting music. Therefore, the opportunity for volunteers to sing or play instruments for our musical offerings remains available! If you'd like to share your musical gifts with the congregation during our on-line services, please let Dave D. know -- he is glad to help you find music and rehearse before recording. Dave can be reached either by email at [buccmusic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccmusic@sbcglobal.net), or by phone at 216-408-7949. High school students are welcome to participate!

NOTE: Social distancing and masks are worn during these rehearsal/recording sessions.

**DEDICATION SET FOR LITTLE FREE ANTIRACISM LIBRARY**- The building of Brecksville's very own Anti-racist Free Little Library is complete! Gina Thomas and Pastor Allan have scheduled the dedication for Saturday, September 26th at 2pm.

## **DEDICATION SET FOR LITTLE FREE ANTIRACISM LIBRARY (cont.) -**

We are so grateful that Gina reached out to us to be a site, and for giving the BUCC this opportunity to encourage the community to read books about anti-racism. If you wish to donate books, the wish list can be found on amazon.com - you can either search the wish list for "Anti-racist Free Little Library of Brecksville", or access it through this link:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/36F1K25B50O1N?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/36F1K25B50O1N?ref=wl_share)

Gina is happy to answer any questions you may have, so feel free to contact her at [ginamthomas@gmail.com](mailto:ginamthomas@gmail.com).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB** - OCWM and Christian Education (CE) are co-sponsoring a Social Justice Book Club! Our first title is "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin DiAngelo. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00, and the next meeting will be on 9/24. Until such a time that we can meet in the parking lot, we will meet on Zoom (same account as our Sunday service). If you have any questions, please contact Kate Klonowski at [keightykay@gmail.com](mailto:keightykay@gmail.com) or 216-534-3498.

**STILL SPEAKING EVENTS** - As Cuyahoga County has moved to an "orange" level, we are happy to schedule our first "Still Speaking" event on the grounds of BUCC! Please join us on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am - this is a chance for members and guests to safely share time together. Pastor Allan will facilitate the discussion for all of us as a congregation.

All are welcome to join us and follow the guidelines below for a safe but enjoyable event:

- Masks are required for participation.
- Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket for seating.
- You may bring a beverage or snack, but please no sharing with other households.
- Restrooms will not be available and the BUCC building will be closed.
- Please enjoy each other's company but remain 6 feet apart.
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well.

## ***Readings***

### **First Campaign Lesson - Matthew 4: 1-11**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

### **Second Campaign Lesson - John 8: 42-45**

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!"

### **September 20, 2020**

**Lay Reader: Diane Gressley**

**Responder: Betsey Wilson**

### **September 27, 2020**

**Lay Reader: David Pastor**

**Responder: Linda Kriynovich**