



# 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*

***“The most  
common way  
people give up  
their power is  
by thinking  
they don’t  
have any.”  
–Alice Walker***



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**Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 • 10:00 AM  
Seventeenth 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 27th, 2020 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

## Meditation Music

“The story goes that a public sinner was excommunicated and forbidden entry to the church. He took his woes to God. ‘They won’t let me in, Lord, because I am a sinner.’ ‘What are you complaining about?’ said God. ‘They won’t let Me in either.’”

–Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up and Burnt Out

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

### Prelude

*Water for My Soul*

Victor

arr. G. Joseph; *Spread Worship* & Gangai Victor

### Bearing the Light of Peace

### Bearing the Light of Christ

#### \* Call to Worship

Leader: Come, come into worship. Everything is ready; God is at hand.

**People: God stands by us in all we go through.**

Leader: God does not promise that life will be easy; God does not promise that nothing bad will ever happen. But God does promise to be with us in whatever comes.

**People: Whether on the mountain or in the valley, God walks the way with us.**

Leader: God is with us in all that we will face. Let us worship God!

### Hymn of Praise

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Zundel

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven on earth be found,  
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.  
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;  
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

## Hymn of Praise

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (continued)

3. Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave.  
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,  
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.  
(Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.)

## Prayer of Approach and Confession [Unison]

**We believe that you are who you say you are, O God: the one who made all that is; the one who cares about right and wrong; the one who gave the Law as a gift to guide all people in how to live; the one who entered into history to walk the roads with us and show us the way home. You've shown us who you are. And we've shown you who we are: people who want to do right, but often do wrong; people who want to be kind, but lose their patience; people who believe in grace, but practice judgment. Forgive us our failings, and teach us to forgive ourselves. Continue to walk the way with us, and help us grow in your presence. Amen**

## Words of Assurance

Leader: The Apostle Paul wrote, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work in ways that please God."

People: **We are forgiven, for God is at work in us, to turn us into the people we were made to be. Thanks be to God who accomplishes all this in Jesus Christ. 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.



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

### **The Invitation**

Leader: We sometimes wonder how we ever made it through, when the tough times came and life was hard, when we needed a hand to hold or a shoulder to cry on. We came to church, perhaps to pray, maybe to ask for money, sometimes just not to be alone. God was there in the people of the church. Let us give now so that tomorrow, when someone comes in a tough time of life, the church will be there for them, too.

### **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]**

**Take our offerings, take our gifts, take our wills, and take our selves, and bless this world with all of them, O God our Savior. Amen**

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

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

*Great Is Your Faithfulness*

Runyan

1. Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,  
with you no shadow of turning we see.  
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;  
all of your goodness forever will be.

*REFRAIN:* Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *REFRAIN*

\* Hymn of Departure

*Great Is Your Faithfulness* (continued)

3. Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,  
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. *REFRAIN*  
(Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; 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 melody is simple and repetitive. Chords are indicated above and below the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

Benediction

Postlude

(*Poème*)  
*Budapest Strings*

Fibich

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

Elizabeth Gadus, the loved ones of Jean and Bob Murphy, 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.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** - We are checking in to see who would be interested in a virtual Adult Bible Study while the church building remains closed (or even after reopening)! Please weigh in with your responses here: <https://rb.gy/ywjarw> (by typing this web address in the top bar of your internet browser, you will be taken to a response form that will automatically send your answers to Kate.) If you have any questions, please reach out to CE Chair Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or [keightykay@gmail.com](mailto:keightykay@gmail.com).

**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 is practiced and masks are worn during these rehearsal/recording sessions.

**LITTLE FREE ANTIRACISM LIBRARY**- Brecksville's very own Little Free Anti-racism Library is complete! We are so grateful that Gina Thomas 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/36F1K25B5001N?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/36F1K25B5001N?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).

## **BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS** (continued)

**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 10/1. 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 next “Still Speaking” event on the grounds of BUCC! Please join us on September 29th 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***

### **Old Testament Lesson - Exodus 17:1-7**

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

### **New Testament Lesson - Philippians 2: 1-13**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

*(continued on next page)*

## **New Testament Lesson** *(continued)*

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

## **Contemporary Reading - “Water Flows”**

-- from The Penelopiad, by Margaret Atwood

“Water does not resist. Water flows. When you plunge your hand into it, all you feel is a caress. Water is not a solid wall, it will not stop you. But water always goes where it wants to go, and nothing in the end can stand against it. Water is patient. Dripping water wears away a stone. Remember that, my child. Remember you are half water. If you can't go through an obstacle, go around it. Water does.”

### **September 27, 2020**

**Lay Reader:** David Pastor  
**Responder:** Linda Kriynovich

### **October 4, 2020**

**Lay Reader:** Bridget Sproul  
**Responder:** Diane Gressley