



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*

***“A man’s
earthly
possessions
are in one of
two places—the
place he left
them in or the
place his
significant
other moved
them to
without telling
him.”***

**–Stewart
Stafford**



Sunday September 6th, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Fourteenth 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 6th, 2020 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Meditation Music

“Coats of paint don’t make this house a home/ But with every room we paint, we are changing it to our own./ Piece by piece, wall by wall, we build/ A place of peace for us all until/ the house is a picture of the love we feel.”

–Eric Overby, *Senses*

Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Mercy

Richter

Mari Samuelsen, violin; Max Richter, piano; video by Yulia Mahr

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: The Scriptures remind us that we live our lives always in God’s presence, at the intersection of what has been and what will be, God’s eternal Now.

People: God calls us through the rain, telling us to hold on, for help is on the way; but too often we are listening for thunder when God is to be found in a whisper.

Leader: In Christ the invisible presence of God became visible, and our eyes saw God through the haze of a dusty road.

People: God is no longer visible, but God is still present with us, to the very end of the age, our companion on the dusty roads which are our lives.

Leader: In all that we are, and all that we go through, God is with us. Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Taylor

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
3. Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
(Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.)

Prayer of Approach and Confession [Unison]

With our best intentions, we just keep making a mess of things. What have we done, what have we done? What can we do when our good isn't good enough? How many times will it take for us to get it right? We know the answer. We're human: we'll keep on making mistakes, keep on stumbling, keep on finding parts of ourselves that aren't there yet. O God, O God, have mercy on us, forgive us, fill us with your Spirit so we can do better. We ask it in the name of the One who came for us, who comes for us, who will come again for us, in our every time of need: Jesus. Amen

Words of Assurance

Leader: Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, Jesus said, there will I be, in the midst of them. We are gathered in his name, and so he is here with us now, to offer healing, forgiveness, and love to us all.

People: **Jesus' touch makes us whole, his Spirit makes us family, and his presence makes us new people for a new life in God's new world. Thanks be to God for these marvelous gifts of Christ's presence! Amen**

*Song of Praise

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Glory to God'. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: 'Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be'. The second staff contains the second line of lyrics: 'peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.' The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 6/8 time signature. Chord symbols F, C, and F are placed above the first staff, and F, C, and F are placed above the second staff. The music consists of chords and eighth notes.

God Is Still Speaking

Epistle Lesson

Romans 13: 8-14

Living as the people of God

New Testament

Matthew 18: 15-20

Life together

Contemporary Reading

“The Song of Heavenly Fellowship”

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

Musical Offering Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
From a Supplement to *The Kentucky Harmony*, 1820
Arranged & performed by Koiné

Sermon *Life Together* Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers
Melody from *The Christian Lyre*, 1831

1. Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.
With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
Glory, glory, yours the promise: we who are the church rejoice.

3. Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
Bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.
One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.
Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.
(Roger Powell, 1948; 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: What is impossible for one working alone, two can perhaps manage, and three can complete to the glory of God. Let us work together, and give together, and do great things for God together. 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]**

**We cannot feed all the hungry, or clothe all the naked, or house all the homeless.
But let us help those whom we can help, and set an example for those who follow
after. May these gifts be your instrument, O God, to bring help to those in need.
Amen.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup

Berthier

**Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst. (*sing twice*)
(The Taizé Community)**

The Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Though the grains are many, there is one loaf. Though the grapes are many, there is one cup. Though we are many, we are one people. We who are joined to You and to each other through this holy sacrament of bread and wine, offer You thanksgiving for your gifts, O God most kind. Amen

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

O for a World

Gläser

1. O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.
3. We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
(Miriam Therese Winter, 1987)

*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 musical notation consists of two staves 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

Workers
John Eimen, vocalist

Eimen

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Jean Murphy, the family and friends of 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, Dassi 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

Epistle Lesson - Romans 13: 8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

New Testament - Matthew 18: 15-20

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Readings (continued)

Contemporary Reading - “The Song of Heavenly Fellowship” - from *Life Together* by **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

“God has prepared for Godself one great song of praise throughout eternity, and those who enter the community of God join in this song. It is the song that the ‘morning stars sang together and all the children of God shouted for joy’ at the creation of the world (Job 38:7). It is the victory song of the children of Israel after passing through the Red Sea, the Magnificat of Mary after the annunciation, the song of Paul and Silas in the night of prison, the song of the singers on the sea of glass after their rescue, the ‘song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb’ (Rev. 15:3). It is the song of the heavenly fellowship.”

September 6, 2020

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Responder: Janet Renovetz

September 13, 2020

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Responder: Jon Thompson