

October 4th, 2020

“We sinned for no reason but an incomprehensible lack of love, and God saved us for no reason but an incomprehensible excess of love.”

–Peter Kreeft, Jesus-Shock

Announcements

WELCOME to all guests or visitors worshipping with us today in this Zoom format! We are doing everything we can to keep the service open to all, yet secure. In the eventuality of a disruption of the service, we will email information on how to re-enter the service with a password.

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***

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - We encourage you to share this service with your children, as well as take part in the virtual activities with Ms. Mindy at 9:30 (1/2 hour before every service). The link for this can be found in the email you may have received, on our Facebook page and/or on our church website: <https://brecksvilleucc.org>.

LITTLE FREE ANTI-RACIST LIBRARY- We are so grateful that Gina Thomas chose us to be the site for Brecksville's very own Little Free Anti-racism Library, 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 . Gina is happy to answer any questions you may have, so feel free to contact her at ginamthomas@gmail.com.

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 Tuesday, October 6th 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.

***NOTE:** 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.

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 via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7:00, and the next meeting will be on 10/8. Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Klonowski at keightykay@gmail.com or 216-534-3498.

Announcements (continued)

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, 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.**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Christian Education is 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> - type this web address in the top bar of your internet browser, fill out the response form, and your answers will be automatically sent to Kate! If you have any questions, please reach out to CE Chair Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com.

BUCC MASKS - If you would like your very own “still speaking” mask, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498 or email at keightykay@gmail.com and she will mail or deliver (contact-free) one to you! Suggested donation \$10 (proceeds go toward the BUCC general fund).

OUR CHURCH’S WIDER MISSION (OCWM) SPECIAL COLLECTION - On October 11th, BUCC will have a special collection for the **UCC Neighbors in Need** program. Neighbors in Need is a church mission that supplies small grants to local UCC churches to help build or maintain outreach ministries in their community.

These types of uplifting missions are important now more than ever - please give to support this amazing program if you are able! You may donate with your regular church offering and simply include a note, or contact Joy Garapic to indicate the funds that you are designating for the Neighbors in Need program.

WEEKLY COLLECTION is still happening! Please don't forget to send in your pledges to the church by mail or (preferably) PayPal! Check out BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving for more info.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be the Zoom Host or assist in other ways with our virtual services (it's very easy!), please reach out to Heidi Spangler at heidi@heidihoonthego.com. We'd love to teach you. 😊

COFFEE HOUR! After the service, we welcome all attendees to stay on Zoom to enjoy some time and fellowship with each other. Brew your favorite fairly-traded coffee or tea and a snack and catch up with friends!

*Many thanks for all the
donations of time, money, and
talent that you provide to the
Church!*

Gathering in God's Presence

"Here I am going to say something which may come as a bit of a shock. God doesn't necessarily want us to be happy. God wants us to be lovable. Worthy of love. Able to be loved by God. We don't start off being all that lovable, if we're honest. What makes people hard to love? Isn't it what is commonly called selfishness? Selfish people are hard to love because so little love comes out of them."

-William Nicholson, Shadowlands (inclusivized)

Prelude Music: *Change My Heart, Oh God/Spirit Song* Espinosa/Wimber
arr. G. Joseph Roby Duke & Debby Tebay, vocalists
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwudqCO7mSQ>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Bridget): The God of surprises may appear today. If you don't think God will, what a surprise it would be!
- ◆ **People (Diane): God is not stale, like a loaf of bread past it's due date. God is not flat, like a wine that has been left open. God is thunder on a cloudless day; God is a rainbow by moonlight.**
- ◆ Leader: God may shock you, terrify you, thrill you, delight you; the living God will never bore you!
- ◆ **People: God is not humdrum, like the morning commute; God is not ordinary, like waking on a workday. God is the moment after a beloved's proposal; God is the sound of a baby's first breath.**
- ◆ Leader: Let us prepare to be surprised by God. Let us enter into worship!

Hymn of Praise: *Awake, Awake to Love and Work* Kentucky Harmony, 1816

1. Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
the fields are wet with diamond dew; The worlds awake to cry
their praises to the Fount of Life; Christ Jesus passes by.

2. Come, let your voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set your soul ablaze,

3. To give and give, and give again, as God's own grace is free;
To spend yourself nor count the cost; To serve most gloriously
the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.
(Geoffrey A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1921; alt.)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ Leader (Bridget): O God, are we dreaming or are we dying? Are we the searchers or the sought? Who are we before you, and who are you to us? We know you are God, and we think we know you, but you continue to surprise us even as we read stories from long ago. We think we know ourselves, but we continue to be shocked by our own choices: how did we bring about despair, abandonment, loneliness when we were seeking joy, fulfillment, and companionship? Free us from the cramped darkness of sin to stretch our limbs in the freedom of Christ's light. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ Leader (Bridget): The Apostle Peter proclaimed: "All the prophets testify about Jesus that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
- ◆ **People (Diane): We can forgive ourselves, because God has told us that we are forgiven. We can stop beating ourselves up and putting ourselves down. We are whole again, because Christ has made us whole. 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.

Readings:

Old Testament Lesson - Exodus 20: 1-20

The people encounter God at Sinai

And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

Epistle Lesson - Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul and his 'crappy' life

. . . though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 21:33-46***Jesus shocks the chief priests***

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Musical Offering:

*“Avinu Malkeinu”
Kate Klonowski, Soloist*

Janowski

Sermon:

The Shocking God

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Knecht

1. Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.
3. Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.
(Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.)

The Church at Prayer:

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.)

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 (Bridget): God, the creator of a billion galaxies, shocks us every moment when we consider God's love for us, tiny creatures on a tiny planet. Who are we that God should notice us, much less love us? And yet God does love us, loves us to death in Christ, and beyond. Let us show our love to God by presenting our gifts and offerings, so that God's love may enter someone else's life unexpectedly.

BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving

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:

- ◆ People (Diane): **May the lonely find a friend, may the remorseful find forgiveness, may the hurting find comfort, may the loveless find your love, O God, through these gifts which we give this day. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*
 The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

1. Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
 O Savior, stay with us and spread your table in our heart.
2. Here share with us in love divine, your body and your blood;
 That living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food
 (Xames Montgomery, 1825; alt.)

† **The Thanksgiving**

† **Words of Institution**

† **Prayer of Consecration**

† **The Invitation**

† **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

- ◆ **People (Diane):** Only you, O God, can take the ordinary things of the table, mere bread and wine, and transform them and us by the power of your Holy Spirit. As the bread and wine are set aside for this holy use, let us be set aside, too, for your holy use. In grateful devotion we ask these prayers. Amen

Hymn of Departure: *Dear God, Embracing Humankind*
 John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

Maker

1. Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways;
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find,
 in deeper reverence, praise.
2. *In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
 The gracious calling of your word, let us, like them, by spirit stirred,
 rise up and followers be.*
5. Breathe through the pulses of desire your coolness and your balm;
 Let sense be numb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
 O still, small voice of calm.

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World

Circle of Community

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.

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

Benediction

Postlude:

Journey of a Lifetime

Kids on the Move

(Kids on the Move is a children's ministry of Church on the Move in Tulsa, OK)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r12oja1zG6g>

Thank You for Joining Us!



October 4, 2020

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Responder: Diane Gressley
CE: Mindy Harris Wade

October 11, 2020

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Responder: Julie Bernard
CE: Mindy Harris Wade