

October 18th, 2020

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

"It is no idle phrase that [humanity] was made in God's image. There is something worth saving in the worst of us, and out of this something a new [person] may be fashioned."
-- Philip José Farmer

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.

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.orghttps://brecksvilleucc.org/services/childrens-time-online/>

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. The book inventory is very low at this point, so if you're able 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 ginaamthomas@gmail.com.

STILL SPEAKING EVENTS* - As Cuyahoga County holds strong at the "orange" level, we are happy to schedule our next "Still Speaking" events on the grounds of the BUCC! Please join us on Tuesday (10/20) at 9:30 am, and/or Thursday (10/22) at 5:30pm. 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.**

*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!***

Announcements (continued)

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB - The OCWM and Christian Education's (CE) joint venture – the Social Justice Book Club - continues to discuss the book White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, by Robin DiAngelo. The next Zoom meeting is on Thursday 10/22, at 7:00 pm. (Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service.) Our next title will be The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming, by David Wallace-Wells. The first meeting for this book will be on 11/5 -- more info to come as the date approaches! If you have any questions, please contact Kate Klonowski at keightykay@gmail.com or 216-534-3498.

THE MITTEN TREE RETURNS! Beginning Nov. 2nd, The Mitten Tree will be set up in the lower lobby of the church (inside the back door). It would be wonderful if its magical branches could be replenished again this year for our neighbors in need! You are welcome to bring in any new/gently-used (or newly-created!) hats, mittens, gloves and scarves, which will find new homes when we provide hunger meals. The back doors will be open during regular church hours, for those who are able to deliver their items. If you have a contribution but are unable to stop by the church, please reach out to Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com, to arrange for a pickup.

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.

HUNGER MEAL (OCWM) – The next hunger meal will be on Sunday, November 1st, at Iglesia Emmanuel on W. 41st St. in Cleveland. Because of the pandemic, the meal will be served in a “take away” fashion. The menu will be sandwiches, bananas, trail bars and bottled water. The sandwiches will be made at home, and everything will be in a plastic bag, for attendees to pick up when they arrive. Serving begins at about 3:30 pm – the attendance at hunger meals has decreased as of late, so we will plan to make meals for 30 people. MANY THANKS to Bob and Caroline Chandler, for volunteering to do all the prep and distribution for this hunger meal!

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).

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.

Announcements (continued)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be the Zoom Host or the Slide Runner, (both very easy and done from the comfort of your own home!), 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

Meditation:

"To disrespect a person made in the image and likeness of God is a lot worse than desecrating a flag. We should be offended and repulsed in the same way when God's image bearers are desecrated—abused, beaten, neglected, discriminated against, and not loved and taken care of as they should be."

-James MacDonald, Christ-centered Biblical Counseling: Changing Lives with God's Changeless Truth

Prelude Music:

Prelude No. 2

Gershwin

Matthias Lang, guitar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q58NjV5MCfY>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Kathleen): Where is God to be found? In the mountains? In the rain? In the thunder?
- ◆ **People (Jill): Why do we search for God, when it is God who has come searching for us?**
- ◆ Leader: And yet God is to be found walking by the Sea of Galilee; wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name; in the stranger in need; in the bread and wine on the table.
- ◆ **People: And yet God finds us in the midst of life, when we least expect God to be near us: in pain and suffering, whether our own or of others; in the cries of the world, whether of joy or of sorrow; in the company of saints, and sinners too.**
- ◆ Leader: Let us look for God, and be found by God! Let us enter into worship!

Hymn of Praise: *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us* Rowan

1. Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body, God has called us into life.
2. Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows, God has walked with us in life.
3. Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sisters, God still calls us into life.
4. When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.
(Daniel Bechtel, 1986)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Jill): You, O God, are the reason we are here. You imagined a universe and brought it into being. You desired to raise up creatures who could know you and love you, and here we are. You did whatever it took to win us back and set us right, so we could live with you forever. We, O God, have messed up the world you made and brought it into environmental danger. We have found it hard to know and love each other, much less know and love You. We keep setting ourselves wrong again, so we can live for ourselves. Forgive us, reshape our hearts, and empower us to live more like people on the way to eternal life with You.**

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Kathleen): God says, "I know the plans I have for you, plans for good and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope."**
- ◆ **People (Jill): You, O God, have said that We are forgiven in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to You, for what You have done for Us. Amen**

Song of Praise:

Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!
Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth be peace to all people, with whom God is pleased.
And on earth be peace to all people, with whom God is pleased.

Readings

Old Testament - Genesis 1: 26-27

The image of God (inclusivized)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them.

Gospel - Matthew 25: 31-46

The Sheep and the Goats

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'"

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Continuing Testament - from *Still: notes on a mid-faith crisis*, by Lauren Winner

Last week, [my friend] Sarah opened her door to find a traveling salesman. She invited him in, told him she was not planning to buy a vacuum cleaner and that in fact, because her baby was asleep upstairs, he couldn't turn on his demo model, and then she offered him a cup of coffee. He asked why she was offering him coffee, when she wasn't even going to let him show her the vacuum cleaner, and she said it was because she worships a God who has said that he may be found in any person, any near or far neighbor, any prisoner or beggar on the street, any guest. "So I'm offering you coffee because you might be Jesus," Sarah said. The vacuum cleaner salesman said it was the strangest house call he'd ever made, but he took the coffee.

Musical Offering: ***Speak, O Lord*** Getty/Townend
Jon Thompson, bass

Sermon: **I Might Have Missed You Once Or Twice**
Pastor Allan Lane

Reflection Song: ***Wide Eyed*** Nordeman
Nichole Nordeman, soloist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI3HdZUCxZU>

The Church at Prayer

Dot and Stu Bailey and family, the family and friends of Phyllis Molnar, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Joanne Cook, Sheila Day (friend of the Sniders), Joanne K. and Jim C. (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, 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 (Kathleen): Our place in this world is shaped by so many things: our birth, our genetics, our culture, our society, our gender, our race, time and chance. But together we are all human, together we can make it, together. So let us present our gifts and offerings, to enrich our life together.

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 (Jill): Long ago, O God, you were found in one of us. Now let us learn to see your image in all of us. May these offerings help all of those who might be Jesus in our midst. Amen.

Holy Communion

- ∞ **The Thanksgiving**
- ∞ **Words of Institution**
- ∞ **Prayer of Consecration**
 - ∞ **The Invitation**
- ∞ **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

Holy Communion:

- ◆ People (Jill): We know you hide yourself, O Christ, in the bread and the wine of the table through your Spirit. Help us to see you hiding in each person we meet as we rise from this table, strengthened by your presence. With thanksgiving for all you are, let us go forth. Amen

Hymn of Departure: *God Our Author and Creator* Southern Harmony, 1835

1. God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,
make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed down-trod;
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.

2. Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve:
when our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
Teach us wisdom and compassion: bid our restless thoughts be still;
by your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will.

3. Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true,
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."
Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place,
with all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace.

(Carl P. Daw. Jr., 1985)

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.

Benediction

Postlude: **Sonata for Violin Solo No.1 in G Minor** J. S. Bach
 (BWV 1001 - 4. Presto)
 Hilary Hahn, violin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZoaEmxrsZQ>

Thank You for Joining Us!



October 18, 2020

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Responder: Jill Zedan
CE: Mindy Harris Wade
Zoom Host: Jim Duffy
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski

October 25, 2020

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Responder: Kathy Smith
CE: Mindy Harris Wade
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski