

# October 25th, 2020

## Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

*"I have a friend who says we spend the first half of our life building it and the second half preventing it from falling apart. I'd rather be under construction when I die."*

*–Heather Lende, Find the Good: Unexpected Lessons from a Small-Town Obituary Writer*

### 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 were so pleased to see Gina Thomas and her family and friends, on the cover of the November Brecksville Magazine! If you don't receive this publication, you can find it online at:

<http://www.scriptype.com/2020/10/19/november-2020-brecksville-magazine/>

We are honored to become one more voice speaking out against racism. The library's inventory is very low at the moment, so if you're able to donate a book (or more!), please consider it. You can do so through Gina, online via Amazon, or just drop one directly into the mailbox (please alert Gina so she can ID and add the book to her catalog). 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 - please feel free to contact her at [ginaathomas@gmail.com](mailto:ginaathomas@gmail.com).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB** - An OCWM/CE joint venture, the book club has selected its next book on the theme of environmental stewardship. We will be reading *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* by David Wallace-Wells. The first meeting will be Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 pm on Zoom (the same codes we use for church services). We will be discussing all of Part 1: Cascades. Please feel free to contact Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or [keightykay@gmail.com](mailto:keightykay@gmail.com) with any questions!

*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)

**THE MITTEN TREE RETURNS!** Beginning Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto: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](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.**

**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](mailto:keightykay@gmail.com).

**HUNGER MEAL (OCWM)** – The next hunger meal will be on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, at Iglesia Emmanuel on W. 41<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](https://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:**

"As the child once fantasized that its wishes governed the world, and the youth fantasized that heroism could manage to do it all, so the person in the second half of life is obliged to come to a more sober wisdom based on a humbled sense of personal limitations and the inscrutability of the world. "

–James Hollis, *Finding Meaning in the Second half of Life: How to Finally, Really Grow Up*

### **Prelude Music:**

#### ***Go Down, Moses***

Negro spiritual

Louis Armstrong, vocal and trumpet solo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf6jBP4YXwo>

### **Call to Worship:**

- ◆ Leader (Betsey): Alpha and Omega, First and Last, You are God from beginning to end!
- ◆ **People (Kathy): Young and old, moving on knees or legs or canes, we are your children from start to finish.**
- ◆ Leader: And so we come to worship, and to praise, and to find ourselves afresh when we find yourselves in You.
- ◆ **People: Lead us, O God, in every stage of life, and every step along the way. Let us be your people and you can be our God, now and always.**
- ◆ Leader: Let us worship God!

**Hymn of Praise:**      ***Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve***      Handel

1. Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve, and press with vigor on;  
A heavenly race demands your zeal, and an immortal crown,  
and an immortal crown.

2. A cloud of witnesses around holds you in full survey;  
Forget the steps already trod, and onward urge your way,  
and onward urge your way.

3. For God's all-animating voice still calls us to the race;  
And God's own hand still gives the prize with never-ending grace,  
with never-ending grace.  
(Philip Doddridge [1702-1751]; alt.)

**Prayer of Approach & Confession:** (based on Psalm 90)

- ◆ **People (Kathy):** O God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations, as the Psalmist says. Before the mountains were brought forth, before you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past. You sweep them away like a dream. With time, you turn us back to dust. Yet you care for us, you share our time with us, and you share Your time with us in eternity through Christ Jesus. Forgive us the sins of a moment and the trespasses of a day. Forgive us when we dissolve the grand sweep of time into what we want right here and right now. In the name of the Eternal One who clothed himself in time and dwelt among us, we ask forgiveness.

**Words of Assurance:**

- ◆ **Leader (Betsey):** Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning.
- ◆ **People (Kathy):** Like the years gone by, God has swept all our sins away. In Christ we are a new creation; the old has gone and the new is here. Thanks be to God! 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 - Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

### *The death of Moses*

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land -- from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt -- to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

### Gospel - Matthew 22: 34-46

### *The Two Great Commandments*

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied. He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, 'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.' If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

### Continuing Testament - "Rabbi Ben Ezra" (extract), by Robert Browning

Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was made:  
Our times are in His hand  
Who saith "A whole I planned,  
Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid!"

<b>Musical Offering:</b>	<b><i>Lead Me, Guide Me</i></b> Valerie Tyler, vocalist	Akers, arr. Smallwood
<b>Sermon:</b>	<b><i>Heading For The Finish Line</i></b>	Pastor Allan Lane
<b>Reflection Song:</b>	<b><i>If You But Trust in God to Guide You</i></b>	Neumark

1. If you but trust in God to guide you, with hopeful heart through all your ways,  
you will find strength, with God beside you, to bear the worst of evil days;  
For those who trust God's changeless love  
build on the rock that will not move.

3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; offer your service faithfully,  
and trust God's word, though undeserving, there find the truth to set you free;  
God will not fail to guide and bless  
those who embrace God's faithfulness.

(Georg Neumark, 1641; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.)

## **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 (Betsey): Our love lives from year to year, our hopes change, our future turns into our past, yet God is forever constant, calling us to give ourselves fully to God's project in our lives: to prepare us for life with God and our neighbor forever. Let us share ourselves with our gifts and offerings.

[BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving](http://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 (Kathy): May these gifts show your forever love to a world full of sorrow and distress now, O God. Accept them as tokens of our willingness to love you and our neighbor as ourselves. Amen**

### **Hymn of Departure:      *Jesus, Still Lead On***

Drese

1. Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;  
And although the way be cheerless,  
we will follow, calm and fearless;  
Guide us by your hand to the promised land.
2. If the way be drear, if the woe be near,  
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us,  
let not faith and hope forsake us;  
For through many a woe, to our home we go.
4. Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;  
Heavenly Leader still direct us,  
still support, console, protect us,  
Guide us by your hand to the promised land.

## 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, C7, F7m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A

**Benediction**

**Postlude:**

*One Day*

Cochren & Co.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIWAoT9aX78>

*Thank You for Joining Us!*



October 25, 2020

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

November 1, 2020

Lay Reader: Sue Maier  
 Responder: Sherrill Witt  
 CE: Mindy Harris Wade  
 Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler  
 Slide Runner: Kate Klonsowski