

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15th, 2020

“Another flaw in the human character is that everybody wants to build and nobody wants to do maintenance.” - Kurt Vonnegut, Hocus Pocus

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.org><https://brecksvilleucc.org/services/childrens-time-online/>

THE PASTOR IS IN – Pastor Allan would like to remind folks that he’s available every Tuesday, between 11 am and noon. You can contact him either by mail, email or phone (feel free to call either the church or his cell phone directly). You can also catch him online, by clicking on the same Zoom link that we use for Sunday services. He’d love to hear from you! Here’s his contact information:

- BUCC address: **23 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141**
- Email: buccpastor@sbcglobal.net
- BUCC Office phone: **(440) 526-4364**
- Pastor Allan’s cell phone: **(513) 417-1537**
- Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: In keeping with our focus on Stewardship this month, it is time to choose how YOU can serve the church by joining a ministry! There are openings in all areas, with several ministries needing chairpersons. Please communicate with someone on Leadership Development by the end of November, to discuss where your gifts can be shared. Hope to hear from you soon, and thank you in advance for supporting your church!

(You may contact any of the following: Bridget Sproul, Julie Bernard, Linda Kriynovich, Cliff Cribbs, Sue Maier or Beth Rehling)

*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! The Mitten Tree is 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.

SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY begins this month! **Elizabeth Gadus** is starting a campaign to collect socks for the homeless. She will distribute the socks on the last Sunday of every month, hereby referred to as "Sock It To Me Sunday" until further notice. Although her primary target is St. Herman's, she'll also be on the lookout for other shelters in need. Your donations can be placed in the brown quilted bag, located on the bench inside the back entrance. Interested persons may contact Elizabeth by phone call or text at **440-319-6384**, or by email at **elizgadus@gmail.com**. Please take this opportunity to share during this giving season, and thank you in advance!

LITTLE FREE ANTI-RACIST LIBRARY- Don't forget to check out the cover of this month's *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/>

The library's inventory is still low at the moment, so if you're able to donate a book (or more!), please consider it. You can do so either 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/36F1K25B5001N?ref_=wl_share

Gina is happy to answer any questions you may have - please feel free to contact her at **ginamthomas@gmail.com**.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB - The Social Justice Book Club will continue to discuss the book *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*, by David Wallace-Wells. The next Zoom meeting is on Thursday 11/19, at 7:00 pm. (Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service.) We will cover Part 2: Elements of Chaos: Dying Oceans - "Systems" (pp. 103-154). Please feel free to contact **Kate Klonowski** at **(216) 534-3498** or **keightykay@gmail.com** with any questions!

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.**

Announcements (continued)

BUCC MASKS are available! Interested parties should contact Anne, in the BUCC office. Either call **440-526-4364**, or send your request by email at **buccoh@sbcglobal.net**. You can either pick up your order at the church, or Anne will send it to you through the USPS. These masks bear the UCC slogan, "Still Speaking," and our church's name. Suggested donation is \$10, and all 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.

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@heidihoonthegom.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: "I think computer viruses should count as life ... I think it says something about human nature that the only form of life we have created so far is purely destructive. We've created life in our own image."

–Stephen Hawking

Prelude: *Adiemus* Jenkins, arr. Ratledge
(Phonetic lyrics conceived by Karl Jenkins, no translation intended)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B66lqt0K2I0>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Carol): The world we live in is a world we have inherited from generations past. It is God's world, and we must hand it on to future generations for their enjoyment.
- ◆ **People (Pat): This is the world that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- ◆ Leader: God has set us as stewards over the creation, gardeners in the garden, protectors of the sea.
- ◆ **People: The air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, are all gifts from God, whose generosity calls forth our worship and our praise.**
- ◆ Leader: Let us praise God for the gifts of creation! Let us worship together!

Hymn of Praise: *For the Beauty of the Earth* Kocher, adapt. Monk

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

REFRAIN: God of all to You we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,

REFRAIN

3. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,

REFRAIN

(Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

People (Pat): O God, You have made the reds and oranges of the sunset beautiful, but they are a sign that darkness is coming; You have made the tints and shades of pigment in the autumn leaves a sight of wonder, but they are the heralds of death before the leaves fall. All of creation reminds us that light and life will not last forever, however beautiful. Help us to live lives of resplendent beauty while life endures; forgive us whatever we have done to disfigure the beauty of our own lives or the lives of others. Remind us that, just as darkness gives way once more to dawn, and winter death presages spring renewal, our destiny in Christ is not darkness and death, but a return of light and life with You forever. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ Leader (Carol): Through Isaiah the prophet, God says, “Come now, let us settle the matter. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”
- ◆ **People (Pat): God has settled the matter: by the grace of God, our sins are cleansed, and eternal life is ours in Jesus the Messiah. 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**First Lesson****Psalm 104:24-30***God's works in Creation*

How many are Your works, Lord! In wisdom You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number — living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which You formed to frolic there. All creatures look to You to give them their food at the proper time. When You give it to them, they gather it up; when You open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When You hide Your face, they are terrified; when You take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When You send Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the ground.

Second Lesson**Job 12: 7-10***The witness of the animals*

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you.

Which of all these does not know that the hand of God has done this? In God's hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all humankind.

Contemporary Lesson***“The Love of Creation”***

Kathy Pastor

“We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.”
- Jenny Upglow

From the beginning of the creation narrative in the Bible, we learn about the design of stewardship. The beloved story of Adam and Even in the garden portrays an understanding of care for creation – tending of the garden. The original Hebrew translates with the words “till” and “keep.” The word “till” implies “to be bound in service to”, and the word “keep”, in its original form, implies “to preserve” for the future. This understanding is the foundation of stewardship in any form. Our role as stewards of creation can best be understood by our connection to creation, that it was made for our own sake. Most importantly, that by our own actions of love and care we are fed – literally physically and spiritually.

Musical Offering***Brother Sun, Sister Moon***

Donovan

Allison Colbert, vocalist

Sermon:**Stewardship As Love For Creation**

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:***God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*** Schalk

1. God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe, How does the creature say Praise?
2. God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,
How does the creature cry Woe, How does the creature cry Save?
3. God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,
How does the creature say Grace, How does the creature say Thanks?
(Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983)

The Church at Prayer

All family and friends of the following: ***Curt Bailey, Pat Bailey, Jill Black, Paul Klonowski, Dennis Lane, Rudy Lornezo, Phyllis Molnar, Bob & Jean Murphy, George Pastor, Richelle Petras, Don Seager, Kathleen Unetic and Alice Vargo.*** Susan Renovetz, 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, Leroy 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 (Carol): "The earth is the LORD'S and everything in it, the world and all who live in it," wrote King David in Psalm 24. So let us prepare to return to God what is God's own, that many may receive a blessing from God.

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 (Pat): The world You have made, O God, is a world of plenty and abundance, a world where there is enough for everyone. We offer You our time, our talents, and this portion of our inheritance from You, so that all people may experience the abundance of Your creation. Accept it as a sign of our love for You and for Your creation. Amen

Holy Communion

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

People (Pat): O God, bread and wine are good things from the earth, a sign of Your provision. Now, through the power of the Spirit, they have become as Christ for us, a sign of our reconciliation with You. In thanksgiving for all You have done, in bread and wine and Christ we pray. Amen

Hymn of Departure: *Praise to the Living God*

Elvey

1. Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

2. Praise to the living God, from who all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

4. Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.
(Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World:

Circle of Community

The musical score consists of two staves of music in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." The guitar chords are: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

Benediction

Postlude: *Finale from Symphony No. 9, Ode to Joy excerpt* Beethoven
 Ambrosian Singers with Philharmonic Symphony of London, conducted by John McCarthy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VPo0JitThc>

Special Thanks

November 15, 2020

Lay Reader	Carol Miller
Responder	Pat Rehm
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	Jim Duffy

November 22, 2020

Lay Reader	Jon Thompson
Responder	Sue Stenzel
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	Heidi Spangler

Thank You for Joining Us!

