

# Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

## November 22nd, 2020

*“Love, and say it with your life.” –St. Augustine of Hippo*

### Announcements

**WELCOME** to all guests or visitors worshiping 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](mailto: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** - 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** - Elizabeth Gadus is collecting socks for the homeless, and will distribute them 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](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 12/3, at 7:00 pm. (Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service.) This meeting will cover Part 3: The Climate Kaleidoscope: Storytelling - Politics of Consumption (pp. 157 – 217). 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](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.**

## **Announcements** (continued)

**BUCC MASKS** are available! Interested parties can place an order by either calling the BUCC office at 440-526-4364, or sending your request in an email to [buccoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net). Masks are available by pick up or delivery (no extra charge) – please let Anne know what your preference is when ordering. 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](https://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@heidihoonthego.com](mailto: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:** “I prefer trying over talking.” – Dillon Burroughs, *Faith Acts: A Provocative Call to Live What You Believe*

**Prelude:** *The Journey Song* Traditional South African freedom song  
Princeton Seminary's Chapel Choir with members of Seminary community  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B66lqt0K210>

## Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Jon): In the beginning was the Word, but immediately after came the Action.
- ◆ **People (Sue): God spoke, and things started to happen.**
- ◆ Leader: Not all at once, but Day after Day, and things started to take shape.
- ◆ **People: Creation was not once and for all, but is a series of actions still going on, day by day, until the world is as God intended.**
- ◆ Leader: We find direction for working at Creation with God, through our worship of God. So 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:

**People (Pat): Plans, plans, plans, O God, oh yes, we have plans! Plans for how the world should look: a place where no one is hungry and unhoused; a place where there is no violence in our schools, or streets, or businesses; a place where no one feels alone on the outside looking in; a place where humans live in harmony with nature; a place where no one exploits anyone else for their own pleasure or greed; a place where people value love more than they value power. And yet we live in a world where all of these situations still exist. The world seems to thwart our plans. Our own inaction breeds despair. Help us to find a way to do what You have called us to do. Help us to unshelve our plans, and build with You the world You have envisioned for us, O God. In Christ's name, 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 Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

#### **2 Kings 5:1-15b**

#### *Naaman does a simple thing*

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing.

The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy." As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel."

### Second Lesson

#### **James 1:22-25**

#### *Doers of the word*

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

## Contemporary Lesson

### ***Beloved, Love in Action***

Stewardship Time with Kate Klonowski

“Do your little bit of good where you are. It’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” -- Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God’s love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, “Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” We take seemingly small actions to live out God’s love. Here’s the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

### **Musical Offering:**

***Love Is Action*** Tauren Wells

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owS7uJcdDh8>

### **Sermon:**

***Stewardship As Love In Action***

Pastor Allan Lane

### **Hymn of Reflection:**

***O Savior, Let Me Walk with You***

H. Percy Smith

1. O Savior, let me walk with you in earthly paths of service true;  
Tell me your secret, help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear winning word of love.  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.
3. Teach me your patience; let me be in closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong.  
Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984; alt.

## **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 (Jon): Jesus said, "Come and follow me." These are words of action, asking us to do something to make our faith concrete: come; follow. Get up and see what Jesus is doing in the world, and then do likewise. Let us present our gifts and offerings to Jesus as part of our following in his footsteps.

[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 (Sue): Send these gifts into the world to make a difference, O God, and send us after them to do what we can do to work with you in changing the world. Amen

**Hymn of Departure:** *Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed* The Parish Choir, 1850

1. Christian, rise and act your creed; let your prayer be in your deed;  
Seek the right, perform the true, raise your work and life anew.
2. Hearts around you sink with care; you can help their load to bear;  
You can bring inspiring light, strengthen them to do the right.

***(verse 3 on next page)***

## Hymn of Departure: *Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed* (continued)

3. Offer others hope and joy, and God's worship your employ;  
Giving thanks in humble zeal, learning all God's will to feel.

(Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.)

## Going With God's Love

### Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World:

Circle of Community

## Benediction

### Postlude: *Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace*

McDonald

(YouTube recording supplied by the Lorenz Corporation)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VPo0JitThc>

## Special Thanks

### November 22, 2020

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

### November 29, 2020

Lay Reader	Cliff Cribbs
Responder	Janet Renovetz
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	Jim Duffy