



February 14th, 2021
Sixth Sunday
After Epiphany

***“Not everything that is faced can be changed;
 but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”***

–James Baldwin (African American novelist, essayist,
 playwright, poet, and social critic)

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 either 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/>

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – Because our Ash Wednesday service will be celebrated remotely this year, we will each need our own supply of ashes. Pastor Allan is encouraging us to create our own “Ashes of Repentance”. This is done by writing down any burdens that you are carrying, sins you’d like to confess, and/or anything else that’s bothering you. Then burn this paper and crush the ashes, reserving them for the service on 2/17, at 7pm.

FUND RAISER! We will be hosting a Fish Dinner on Friday, March 5th, 2021. This fundraiser will be presented with the help of the Tri-C Culinary Arts Department and Stone Soup. The students have been trained in the latest COVID-19 restaurant protocols, i.e., in addition to gloves, masks and social distancing, they’ve studied the new “no-touch” food safety guidelines and services. It will be served “carry out” style, and all proceeds will directly benefit the BUCC. Volunteers are needed to assist with planning, coordinating and distribution to customers on the day of the event. This dinner will be open to the public, and we hope for strong congregational support. If you’re interested in lending a helping hand, please call or text **Doug Fawcett** at **440-653-3572**. Thank you!

***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)

SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY: Thank you for your generosity over the past couple months, and we are still collecting donations! If you wish to drop off a donation at the church, please call **Anne** at **440-526-4364**, so that she can make sure the back doors are unlocked for you. Likewise, you may contact **Elizabeth** by either phone call or text, at **440-319-6384**, or by email at **elizgadus@gmail.com**.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB – The Social Justice Book Club will continue to discuss the book *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, by Bishop Michael Curry. The next Zoom meeting is on Thursday 2/18, at 7:00 pm. (Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service.) We will cover Chapters 10 (“The Great Relationship Revival”) & 11 (“The Still More Excellent Way”). The discussion questions will be emailed to all at the beginning of the week. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Kate Klonowski** at **keightykay@gmail.com** or **216-534-3498** (text ok).

PASTOR SEARCH AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The PSNC is diligently making survey calls to everyone from the BUCC. If you have not been called yet, don’t worry – your input is essential, and no one will be “left behind”! The following are the members who are conducting the survey calls: Beth Rehling, Ben Rehling, Jon Thompson, Cliffs Cribbs, Joy Garapic, Sherrill Witt and Alan Klonowski. For more information, call **Sherrill Witt** at **216-244-6916**, or **Cliff Cribbs** at **216-970-6347**. Thank you in advance for your time and insights!

THE PASTOR IS IN – Pastor Allan is 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>**

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://www.brecksvilleucc.org/giving)** for more info.

2021 PLEDGE COLLECTION ENVELOPES: The small collection envelopes for this year are available on the pew bench just inside the back doors. If you haven’t gotten yours yet, Joy has sent your envelopes for the first quarter in with your year-end statement. To pick up your envelopes, please call the church office to make arrangements for the doors to be unlocked. If you can't pick them up, notify **Anne** and she will mail them to you. The church office phone number is: **440-526-4364**, and **Anne’s email** is **buccoh@sbcglobal.net**.

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!

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ Leader (Evie): Paul wrote to the Corinthians: If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old is gone, and the new has come.
- ◆ People (Janet): **In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self, not counting people's sins against them. 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 Reading: **Colossians 3: 9-14**

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you, and over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Second Reading: **Revelation 7: 9-11** *From every nation*

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Readings (continued)

Contemporary Reading (read by Pastor Allan):

The **“Black Prayer”**, written in 1994 by RuNett Nia-Ebo

Why Did You Make Me Black, Lord? / Lord ... Why did you make me black?
 Why did you make someone the world would hold back? ... Black is the color of dirty clothes, of grimy hands and feet ... Black is the color of darkness, of tired beaten streets ...
 Why did you give me thick lips, / a broad nose and kinky hair? / Why did you create someone who receives the hated stare?
 Black is the color of the bruised eye / when someone gets hurt... / Black is the color of darkness, black is the color of dirt.
 Why is my bone structure so thick, / my hips and cheeks so high? / Why are my eyes brown, and not the color of the sky?
 Why do people think I'm useless? / How come I feel so used? / Why do people see my skin and think I should be abused?
 Lord, I just don't understand... / What is it about my skin? / Why is it some people want to hate me and not know the person within?
 Black is what people are “Labeled” / when others want to keep them away ...
 Black is the color of shadows cast... / Black is the end of the day.
 Lord you know my own people mistreat me, / and you know this just ain't right...
 They don't like my hair, they don't like my skin, / as they say I'm too dark or too light!
 Lord, don't you think / it's time to make a change? / Why don't you redo creation and make everyone the same?

God's Reply:

Why did I make you black? Why did I make you black?
 I made you in the color of coal / from which beautiful diamonds are formed ...
 I made you in the color of oil, / the black gold which keeps people warm.
 Your color is the same as the rich dark soil / that grows the food you need ...
 Your color is the same as the black stallion and / panther, Oh what majestic creatures indeed!
 All colors of the heavenly rainbow / can be found throughout every nation ...
 When all these colors are blended, / you become my greatest creation!
 Your hair is the texture of lamb's wool, / such a beautiful creature is he...
 I am the shepherd who watches them, / I will ALWAYS watch over thee!
 You are the color of the midnight sky, / I put star glitter in your eyes...
 There's a beautiful smile hidden behind your pain ... That's why your cheeks are so high!
 You are the color of dark clouds / from the hurricanes I create in September ...
 I made your lips so full and thick, / so when you kiss...they will remember!
 Your stature is strong, / your bone structure thick to withstand the / burden of time ...
 The reflection you see in the mirror, / that image that looks back, that is MINE!
 So get off your knees, / look in the mirror and tell me what you see?
 I didn't make you in the image of darkness ...
 I made you in the image of ME!

Musical Offering: *This Little Light of Mine* African American spiritual
 Sister Rosetta Tharpe, accompanied by Sims-Wheeler Orchestra
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqYmEI_dvBg

Sermon:

Someone Like You

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

W. Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

1. Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

3. From tender childhood's helplessness, from human griefs and burdened toil,
From famished souls, from sorrows' stress, we know your heart does not recoil.

5. O Savior, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide, O tread the city's streets again:

6. Till all shall learn compassion's might, and follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light, shall come the city of our God.
(Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

The Family and friends of Lee Sanderson, Fred Pedersen, Ann Klonowski, Lenore Harris, 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, Betty Kaul, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (niece of Kathy Smith), Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), 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 (Evie): Who is our neighbor? The one who is in need. That's the only quality God asks us to look at: who is in need. Let us present our offerings to God to help our neighbors.

BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving

Offertory Hymn:

Winter has come, it's taken hold.
The days are short, the nights are cold.
The poor need food and help and heat.
We send our gifts, their needs to meet.
Amen!

Prayer of Dedication:

- ◆ People (Janet): **From generous hearts and generous hands these gifts come to you, O God. Receive them from your people and use them where you see fit. Amen**

Hymn of Departure: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* Welsh folk melody

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

(Omer Westendorf, 1964)

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.

The image shows a musical score for two staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.' The chords are: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

❖ Benediction

Postlude:

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around

Traditional Negro spiritual, adapted for Civil Rights movement in 1960s
 Sweet Honey in the Rock, James Horner
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPUbGcng6Tw>

Special Thanks:

February 14, 2021

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

February 21, 2021

Lay Reader Kathy Smith
 Responder Linda Kriynovich
 CE Mindy Wade
 Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
 Zoom Host Sue Maier

