

February 21th, 2021 First Sunday in Lent

“Slaves are generally expected to sing as well as to work.” -Frederick Douglass

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

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!

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 2/25, at 7:00 pm. (Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service.) We will cover Chapter 12 (“Hope, Help, and Healing”). The discussion questions will be emailed to all prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Kate Klonowski** at keightykay@gmail.com or **216-534-3498** (text ok).

***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)

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!

*Many thanks for your generous donations of time, money,
and talent that you give to our Church!*

Gathering in God's Presence

Meditation: *"I therefore hate the corrupt, slaveholding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of the land. ...The slave auctioneer's bell and the church-going bell chime in with each other, and the bitter cries of the heart-broken slave are drowned in the religious shouts of the pious master."* – Frederick Douglass, from *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Prelude Music: *Guide My Feet* Negro spiritual
 First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn Choir at NYU, 2009
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-WVlppNBIs>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Kathy): We are fragile and fleeting, so let us rest ourselves in the embrace of God the Everlasting.
- ◆ People (Jill): **We are children of time and circumstance, and chance happens to us all.**
- ◆ Leader: The love God gives us through all the years will support us in all things, in both laughter and tears.
- ◆ People: **Whether justice or injustice will be our lot, we do not know. But this we do know: God will see us through.**
- ◆ Leader: In trust and love for the one who loves us from everlasting to everlasting, let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise: *Forty Days and Forty Nights* Herbst

1. Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
 Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

3. Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
 Victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint or fail!

5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side;
 That with you we may appear at the_ eternal Eastertide.

(George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Jill):** In dust and ashes we come before you, O God, most holy, most forgiving, most kind. As Lent begins, we remember what you have done for us in Jesus Christ, who lived for us, died for us, and lives again for us. If only we could see each other, see ourselves through your eyes, how different it could be. We would see others as the beloved of God, and ourselves as their equals. We would see each other as people to be treasured, not as objects to be used to satisfy our desires. Grant us the freedom not to be slaves to our own wants anymore. Grant us the freedom to love others freely for who they are, who they could be in you. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Kathy):** The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."
- ◆ **People (Jill):** And to the Corinthians Paul wrote: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." God has freed us from sin through Jesus Christ. Be a slave to sin no more. Live free in God's Spirit at last! Amen

Song of Praise:

Gathered Here (sung 2 times)

Gathered here in the mystery of this hour,
Gathered here in one strong body,
Gathered here in the struggle and the ower,
Spirit draw near.

Readings

First Reading: **Genesis 9: 18-27** *The Original Sin of Slavery in the Bible*

The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth. Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked. When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." He also said, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. May God extend Japheth's territory; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth."

Readings (continued)

Second Reading: (read by Pastor Allan) Philemon 8-25 *Paul speaks to a master about a slave*

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Contemporary Reading: Abraham Lincoln's *Second Inaugural Address*

Fellow-Countrymen:

At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of this great conflict which is of primary concern to the nation as a whole, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured. On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish. And the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew

(continued)

Contemporary Reading: (continued)

that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh."

If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Musical Offering: ***Stand Up (from the film Harriet)*** J. B. Campbell
 Cynthia Erivo, vocalist
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn19xvfoXvk>

Sermon: ***The Sins of the Church*** Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: ***There Is a Balm in Gilead*** African American spiritual

**REFRAIN: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
 there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.**

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
 But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. **REFRAIN**
2. Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
 who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend. **REFRAIN**
3. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
 you can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. **REFRAIN**

The Church at Prayer

Bill Toneff, Fred Pedersen, Ann Klonowski, Lenore Harris, Susan Renovetz, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gadius, 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 (Kathy): "People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway. People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway." Let us present our offerings to God.

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:

- ◆ Leader (Kathy): Your deep love gives us strength, O God. May our deep love for others give us courage. Receive these gifts from us in strength and courage, and use them to continue creating a better world. Amen

Holy Communion

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

People (Jill): You gave yourself for us long ago, Lord Jesus. And you continue to give yourself to us each time we share the bread and the wine of the sacrament. In thanksgiving we receive your gift of yourself, to strengthen us for all that lies ahead. Amen

Hymn of Departure: *In Egypt under Pharaoh*

Smart

1. In Egypt under Pharaoh the Israelites were bound,
from plagues and tribulations no respite could be found.
Praise God who in surprising ways gave passage through the waves.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator saves.

2. From Africa to gangplanks, across a friendless sea,
black captives harshly treated all struggled to be free.
Praise God who strengthened advocates with power that does and dares.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator cares.

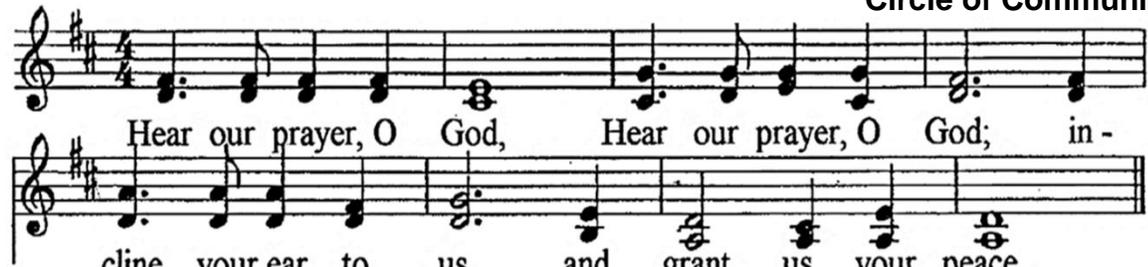
3. Wherever hurting humans unjustly live in pain,
the hungry, homeless, hopeless, cry out for growth and gain.
Praise God whose great redeeming love each servant freely gives.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator lives!

(Dosia Carlson, 1989)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World

Circle of Community



Hear our prayer, O God, Hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

† Benediction

Postlude:

Be A Light

Rhett

Thomas Rhett, vocalist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YuWAZmD0aU>

Special Thanks:

February 21, 2021

Lay Reader Kathy Smith
Responder Jill Zedan
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host Jim Duffy

February 28, 2021

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

Have a Blessed Week