

February 28th, 2021
Second Sunday in Lent

***“It is no measure of health to be well
adjusted to a profoundly sick society.”***

–J. Krishnamurti

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/>

COVID VACCINE - If you are eligible for a COVID vaccine and want to be vaccinated, but are struggling to secure an appointment (internet issues, trouble hearing, etc.), you can contact **Evie Novak** at **440-479-9743** for assistance. (If anyone is able to provide transportation to and from appointments, please reach out to Evie.)

FUND RAISER! The orders are in and on Friday, March 5th, the Brecksville UCC is teaming up with students in Tri-C's Culinary Arts department to roll out our first Friday fish meal. 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. 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.

***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** 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: *"But human beings are not machines, and however powerful the pressure to conform, they sometimes are so moved by what they see as injustice that they dare to declare their independence. In that historical possibility lies hope."*

– from *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train: A Personal History of Our Times*, by Howard Zinn

Prelude Music: ***I've Been 'Buked*** Traditional spiritual, arr. H. Johnson
African American Roots Ensemble, Nedelka Prescod, director
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb7K1DVmetU>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Kathleen): We remember what has been, we live in what is, we look forward to what will be..
- ◆ **People (Jon): We stumble along in the light of grace, knowing that God will always have a place for us.**
- ◆ Leader: God calls us to come along the path that Jesus trod, to walk awhile in the Divine Presence and find our strength again.
- ◆ **People: It is the sweetest sadness to pass our time with the One who is on His way to Jerusalem.**
- ◆ Leader: In this time of Lent, let us live in the love of God as we enter into our worship. Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise: ***Community of Christ*** Traditional Hebrew melody, adapt. M. Lyon

1. Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.
2. Community of Christ, look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.
4. When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;
Our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.
(Shirley Erena Murray, 1985)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Jon):** We live in the world, O God, and sometimes we are too much of the world. We know the weakness that puts ourselves first and that clings to our privileges. The ghosts of society's past haunt us still as we seek to live our lives. Systems set up by people whose eyes saw through race-colored glasses are still in place, still trap the unwary, still shatter the dreams of the innocent. Help us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Help us to renew our society by transforming it into a place where all people have equal dignity and equal justice. We ask it in Jesus the Redeemer's name.

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Kathleen):** Jesus said, "Let the one who is without sin throw the first stone." Slowly every stone fell from every hand and the accusers went away, because no one is without sin.
- ◆ **People (Jon):** But then Jesus said to the woman caught in sin, "Has no one condemned you? Then neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." In Jesus Christ there is now no condemnation for any of us. Let us leave sin behind and live for Christ. 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: 1 Samuel 16: 4-7 *God looks at the heart*

Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Readings (continued)

Second Reading: (read by Pastor Allan) **Romans 12: 1-21** *Do Not Be Conformed*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Contemporary Reading: From *Black Boy*, by Richard Wright (Black American author whose work many critics believe changed race relations in the mid-20th century)

"Ought one to surrender to authority even if one believed that that authority was wrong? If the answer was yes, then I knew that I would always be wrong, because I could never do it. Then how could one live in a world in which one's mind and perceptions meant nothing and authority and tradition meant everything? There were no answers."

Musical Offering:

It's Alright

African American spiritual

The Heritage Chorale (Cleveland, OH)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl87zoWZyso>

Sermon:***The Pattern Of This World***

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder* African American spiritual

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder, **(3 times)**, bearers of the cross.
3. Children, do you love my Jesus? **(3 times)**, bearers of the cross.
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him? **(3 times)**, bearers of the cross.
5. Rise, shine, give God glory, **(3 times)**, bearers of the cross.

The Church at Prayer

Bill Toneff, Fred Pedersen, Ann Klonowski, Lenore Harris, Susan Renovetz, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gatus, 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 (Kathleen): “We give because God gave to us. We give because our souls cry out to do what God does. We give because it is better to give than to receive. Let us present our gifts and 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 (Kathleen): With deep affection and gratitude we present these gifts to you, the God of our lives. We pray that they may make the world a better place. We consecrate them to your holy use, O God. Amen

Hymn of Departure:

God of Grace and God of Glory

Hughes

1. God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
3. Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.
4. Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
armored with all Christlike graces, in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, in the quest for liberty,
in the quest for liberty.
(Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.)

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: *Lift Every Voice and Sing (The Black National Anthem)* J. R. Johnson
Performed by The Wardlaw Brothers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko3LdleyOQs>

Special Thanks:

February 28, 2021

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

March 7, 2021

Lay Reader Leroy Ford
Responder Rose Kaval
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host David Pastor

Have a Blessed Week