

March 7th, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing themselves."

—Leo Tolstoy

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/>

FISH MEAL FUNDRAISER - The BUCC sold a total of 296 meals on Friday! We sold 36 individual hot lunch meals and 65 dinners-for-4. Of the 65 four-pack dinners, 34 were donated by BUCC members and delivered to St. Augustine's Hunger Center on Friday morning – so thanks to your generosity, 136 individual meals went to feeding hungry folks in Cleveland! The food was prepared in Pilgrim Hall, by the Tri-C Culinary Arts students and their Chef instructor. Once we've gotten an actual cost for the food and packaging (which will be provided by Tri-C and will not exceed 20% of the individual dinner cost), we'll report back with the final total for funds raised by this event.

A special thanks goes out to **Heidi Spangler, Jim Duffy, Marge Culver, Mindy and Jesse Wade, Bridget Sproul, Evie Novak and Dave Debick**, for their support in making this such a successful event!

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.)

***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**.

HOLY WEEK: Because the choir cannot rehearse and perform together per pandemic protocol, Dave Debick will be reviewing CD recordings of BUCC Choir music from past years, and he will "extract" a few recordings for this year's services. Maundy Thursday recordings are not available, since those services were all held downstairs in Pilgrim Hall after our annual soup suppers. Dave will be recruiting a volunteer singer and/or instrumentalist for that service.

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 have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: 'If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?' And whenever the answer has been 'No' for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something."* –Steve Jobs

Prelude Music:

Create in Me

Terry Talbot

Performed by Acappella

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noUeQQ64Q1I>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Leroy): Jesus calls all those who are ready to make a change to come into worship.
- ◆ **People (Rose): And he calls all those who aren't quite ready to make a change to come and give him a hearing.**
- ◆ Leader: One day we will look back at this day and it may be one among many, almost forgotten. Or it may be the one we remember as the beginning of something new in our lives.
- ◆ **People: What will God do with this day?**
- ◆ Leader: Let us enter worship and find out! Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise:

Lift High the Cross

S. H. Nicholson

**REFRAIN: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.**

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God. **REFRAIN**
2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. **REFRAIN**
3. O Christ, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. **REFRAIN**

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Rose):** How many times are you right beside us, O God, but we don't notice you there? How many times are you nudging us in the right direction but we nudge right back in the other direction? We honestly don't know. But we do know that the wrong direction has many travelers walking along it, and it's easy to fall into step and join them. It's hard to walk against the stream, and often, if we are truthful with ourselves, we are the stream! Forgive us, restore us, nudge us again until we get it right. Send us walking on the good path through the narrow gate until we find ourselves at home. Let us bring many with us in love. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Leroy):** The Apostle Peter wrote in his first letter: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."
- ◆ **People (Rose):** Let our speaking be the speech of love. Let our acting be the action of love. Let our living be the life of love. Thanks be to God, who forgives us and frees us in love through Jesus 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 power,
Spirit draw near.

New Members: *Annette and Fred Pedersen join the BUCC!*

Members of this church shall be persons who affirm publicly with God and with one another the following covenant:

- † Believing in God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, we dedicate ourselves and our Church to the service of God's realm.
- † Depending as our forebears in the faith upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in truth, we covenant with God and one another to worship, work and serve together, that we may express through our church and our lives the love and faith of Jesus Christ.

Readings

First Reading: **1st Corinthians 1: 18-25** *The Foolish Cross*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan): **John 2:13-22** *Jesus takes a whip*

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Contemporary Reading: From *The Crazy Ones*, by Rob Siltanen and Others working on Apple's "*Think Different*" campaign

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

Musical Offering: ***Sarabande*** J. S. Bach Becky Anderson, flute

Sermon: ***Indiana Jesus and the Temple of Doom*** Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: ***Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days***
 Day's "*The Whole Booke of Psalms*", 1562

1. Lord Jesus, who through forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
2. As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.
3. And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.
(Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Ann Roha (daughter-in-law of Max Roha), Bill Toneff, Fred Pedersen, Ann Klonowski, Lenore Harris, Susan Renovetz, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Joanne Cook, Sheila Day, Joanne K. and Jim C., Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick, 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 (Leroy): Lent is about looking at ourselves clearly, about looking for places to grow, about looking for things to change. But if we don't end up helping other people, what have we really done? How does that look? 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!

Communion Hymn: *Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken* J. S. B. Hodges

1. Bread of the world, in mercy broken, wine of the soul in mercy shed,
By whom the words of life were spoken, and in whose death our sins are dead.

2. Look on the heart by sorrow broken, look on the tears by sinners shed,
And be your feast to us the token that by your grace our lives are fed.

(Reginald Heber, 1827; alt.)

Prayer of Dedication:

- ◆ **People (Rose): Our hearts break when we see the pain of the world, O God. Receive these offerings as a sign of our desire to ease the pain of some small part of our world. Amen**

Holy Communion

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

- ◆ **People (Rose): On the night before you gave yourself for us, you gave yourself to us, Lord Jesus. We thank you for your gift of yourself to us once more. May it strengthen us to give ourselves for others. Amen**

Hymn of Departure:

Jesus, Still Lead On

Drese

1. Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
And although the way be cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless;
Guide us by your hand to the promised land.

2. If the way be drear, if the woe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us, let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many a woe to our home we go.

3. When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring, make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.

(Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1721; transl. Jane Borthwick, 1846; 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: *Jesus, Wondrous King* G. P. da Palestrina
 Performed by The Monteverdi Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WeA-tdVv0o>

Special Thanks:

March 7, 2021

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

March 14, 2021

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

Have a Blessed Week