

## March 21st, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Lent

**“Unfortunately, the clock is ticking, the hours are going by. The past increases, the future recedes. Possibilities decreasing, regrets mounting.”**  
–Hiruki Murakami, *“Dance Dance Dance”*

### 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 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.)

**PALMS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Palms will be available for pickup starting on Monday, 3/22 (tomorrow). They will be in a bin located outside the back doors of the church, and you will receive an email when it's set up. If you are unable to get to the church to pick up palms, please contact Anne Melfo at 440-526-4364 - she'll compile a list of those needing a home delivery, and members of the Spiritual Life committee will drop them off either Friday 3/26, or Saturday 3/27. If you have any questions, feel free to call Anne at 440-526-4364.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB:** We're excited to announce our next book in the Social Justice Book Club series: *Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, by Jose Antonio Vargas. We will begin on Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 pm, on the BUCC zoom. Please prepare by reading the Prologue, Note to Readers, and Part 1: "Lying" (pp. 1 - 43). The chapter sections within are very short and written in a narrative, autobiographical style. Warning: you may have hard time putting it down! Feel free to direct any questions to Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or email keightykay@gmail.com. Discussion questions will be sent out to the congregation on April 1. All are very welcome!

***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)

**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:** *"Time and I have quarreled. All hours are midnight now. I had a clock and a watch, but I destroyed them both. I could not bear the way they mocked me."*  
 –Susanna Clarke, Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell

**Prelude Music:**      ***Ecce Sacerdos Magnus (Behold a Great Priest)***      Bruckner  
 Performed by Cantores Carmeli, Michael Stenov, director  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkpZKTImFaE>

Translation: *"Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God...  
 God gave him the blessing of all nations,  
 and confirmed God's covenant upon his head..."*

### Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Jon): Can you feel the fire coming on? Can you feel the Spirit's approach?
- ◆ **People (Julie): Fill us with the fire of your presence, O God, and warm our souls with your being.**
- ◆ Leader: Does your heart beat faster when the time to worship God is near?
- ◆ **People: Let our hearts dwell with you in worship, O God, and let our time with you be filled with joy.**
- ◆ Leader: Let the fire come, let our hearts beat faster, it's time to worship God!

**Hymn of Praise:**      ***We Worship You, God***      Attrib. to J. Michael Haydn

1. We worship you, God; your power and your love  
 are blazoned abroad, around, and above:  
 Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
 pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
  
3. The earth, with its store of wonders untold,  
 Almighty, your power has founded of old,  
 Established it fast by a changeless decree,  
 and round it you cast, like a mantle, the sea.
  
5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
 Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
 our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!  
 (Robert Grant, 1833; alt.)

## Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Julie):** You alone, O God, are the master of time. You alone have been in every past, inhabit every present, make plans for every future. For us, the past is the past, and it cannot be changed. It's consequences live into the present, and the scars of ancient hurts remain. But we seek a different future, O God, a future made possible for us through Jesus Christ. Heal up the wounds which we have made in others, through our repentance and your Spirit's power. Bind up the wounds which others have made in us through your healing touch. Set all things right through Christ. Amen

## Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Jon):** Jeremiah prophesied from God: "No longer shall they ... say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest."
- ◆ **People (Julie):** God continued, "I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more!" Thanks be to God, whose gracious forgiveness sets us free. 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.

## Readings

### First Reading: **Jeremiah 31: 31-34** *A New Covenant of the Heart*

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

### Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan): **John 12: 17-33** *The Hour Has Come*

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

## Second Reading (continued):

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it, said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

## Contemporary Reading: From *The Beauty of Time*, by Arnold Bennet

"The chief beauty about time is that you cannot waste it in advance. The next year, the next day, the next hour are lying ready for you, as perfect, as unspoiled, as if you had never wasted or misapplied a single moment in all your life. You can turn over a new leaf every hour if you choose."

**Musical Offering:**                      *Unless a Grain of Wheat*                      Farrell  
Jon Thompson, bass

**Sermon:**                                      *Jesus Lifted Up*                                      Pastor Allan Lane

**Hymn of Reflection:**                      *Be Now My Vision*                                      Traditional Irish melody

1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart; nothing surpasses the love you impart--  
You my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word; ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me, now and forever your child I will be.

3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise, you, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart, great God, my treasure, may we never part.

(Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versified by E. H. Hull, 1912; adapt.)

## The Church at Prayer

Cindy Burton, Joe & Betsey Wilson and family, Ann Roha, Bill Toneff, Fred Pedersen, Ann Klonowski, Lenore Harris, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Joanne Cook, Sheila Day, Joanne K. and Jim C., Max Roha, Betty Kaul, 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), 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): When there is hunger and hurt, when there is homelessness and loneliness, time seems not to move at all. Let us give so that time can move forward again for those in need in our community. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God.

**[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 (Julie): With the time we have in this world, O God, let us live our lives as your disciples, faithful and true. Accept these our offerings and use them to set time back on its right course for the people around us. Amen**

## Holy Communion

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

### Prayer of Thanksgiving:

- ◆ **People (Julie):** When your hour came, O Jesus, you sat one last time with your disciples at the common table. You took a meal out of time and made it an everlasting memorial. We thank you that you have come to us once more in this hour, to share this meal once more with us. This was your hour, and this was your presence with us, and for that we are eternally grateful. Amen

### Hymn of Departure: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* 18th century Sicilian melody

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace:  
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.
2. We give thanks and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound:  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

(Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; 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:**

***What a Faithful God***

Robert and Dawn Critchley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fo1UV9pfrs>



**Special Thanks:**

**March 21, 2021**

**Lay Reader** Jon Thompson  
**Responder** Julie Bernard  
**CE** Mindy Wade  
**Slide Runner** Kate Klonowski  
**Zoom Host** Sue Maier

**March 28, 2021**

**Lay Reader** Matt Wolbert  
**Responder** Sherrill Witt  
**CE** Mindy Wade  
**Slide Runner** Kate Klonowski  
**Zoom Host** Heidi Spangler

