

April 11th, 2021
**SECOND SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

*“Where there is no longer any opportunity for doubt,
there is no opportunity for faith either.”*
–Philip Yancy, *Disappointment with God: Three
Questions No One Asks Aloud*

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 the email you may have received, on our Facebook page and/or on our church website: <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, you can contact **Evie Novak** at **440-479-9743**, **Nancy Stella** at **440-724-3101**, and **Kim Wallis** at **440-655-7267** for assistance.

DOUBLE CASH FOR RECYCLED PAPER! Every Thursday morning, River Valley Recycling picks up our recycled paper and cardboard. For the week of **Thursday, April 22nd****, they have offered to pay double for the contents! We'd like to make the most of this offer, and we need your help – please consider the following:

- Please save up your scraps & boxes.
- Please contact your friends & family to do the same.
- Please contact Jim Duffy at 216-644-2784 or jmorganduffy@gmail.com, with any questions.

****PLEASE NOTE:** Please make your paper deposits anytime on 4/18 through 4/21 - anything left in the bin after the morning of the 22nd will NOT be counted in the “double \$” offer!

“CASTING CALL”: The Stewardship committee is looking for anyone who wants to contribute a “Mission Moment Movie Minute” for our virtual church services. A 30-60 second video clip of anything

*We are an Open and Affirming
Congregation, welcoming all of God's
children.*

Whether you are single, married, divorced,
separated,
or partnered,
ou 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!***

related to mission, stewardship, giving or receiving. Make a quick video of something wonderful that someone has done for you or the community. Have your kids make a mini-movie of themselves helping a neighbor or picking up trash in the neighborhood. Or just tell us why you love the BUCC! Send it in to the church email (buccoh@sbcglobal.net), and we'll put it in an upcoming virtual service – thanks in advance!

(continued on next page)

Announcements (continued)

STILL SPEAKING EVENTS*: Weather permitting, we are going to begin having the parking lot meetings at the church again. The first one will be Tuesday, April 20th at 10am, and the second will be Thursday, April 22 at 5pm. This is a chance for members and guests to safely share time together (and the perfect time to bring your paper and cardboard for the recycling drive!).

***NOTE:** All are welcome to join us and follow the guidelines below for a safe but enjoyable event:

- Masks are required for participation.
- Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket for seating.
- You may bring a beverage or snack, but please no sharing with other households.
- Restrooms will not be available and the BUCC building will be closed.
- Please enjoy each other's company but remain 6 feet apart.
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well.

THE PASTOR IS IN – Pastor Allan is available every Tuesday, between 11am 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>**



*Many thanks for your generous donations
of time, money, and talent!*



Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Sue):** Jesus, you said, “Blessed are those who have not seen me, and yet have believed.” Sometimes we would rather not have that blessing. Sometimes we would rather see. But though you are hidden from our eyes, we do our best to trust that you are with us. Strengthen us to do better as we walk this journey of life with you. When we stumble off into the brambles, pull us back out and put us on the right road. Though we can’t see you, help us to hear your voice in Scripture, in prayer, in song, in the quiet stillness of our own souls. If we cannot know your presence from sight, then let us know your presence from the blessing you promised to faith without seeing. We ask it in your name. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Bridget):** Peter assured the listening crowd: “All the prophets testify about Jesus that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” Trust in the Lord Jesus: forgiveness and eternal life are yours in his name! 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:

Mark 9:20-24

I believe; help my unbelief

So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

“*If you can?*” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan):**John 20: 19-31***Doubt and Faith*

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Contemporary Reading:From *Faith and Doubt*, by John Ortberg

"And it struck me, in that year, how deeply both faith and doubt are part of my life. We often think of them as opposites. Many books argue for one or the other. But while in some respects they are enemies, in other ways they are surprisingly alike: both are concerned with ultimate issues; both pop up unasked for at unexpected moments; both are necessary."

Musical Offering:*Risen*

Edwards, arr. Blomberg

Kristen Bodine & Hallie Cahoon, vocalists

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCQsK1t9EKY>**Sermon:***Doubts Unlimited and Faith Unending*

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: *We Live by Faith and Not by Sight* Croft
 (sung to the hymn tune *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*)

1. We live by faith and not by sight, no gracious words we hear
 From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
2. We may not touch Christ's hands and side, nor follow where Christ trod;
 But in confessing we rejoice: our Savior and our God!
3. Help then, O Christ, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
 To call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:
4. That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
 We may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.
 (Henry Alford, 1844; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

David Pastor, Bill Toneff, Lenore Harris, Cindy Burton, Joe & Betsey Wilson and family, Ann Roha, Fred Pedersen, Ann Klonowski, 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, Dassy Matsuoaka, 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 (Bridget): Mary did not recognize the risen Jesus until he said her name. Then she recognized him by the love in his voice. Many today do not recognize the risen Jesus. Let us act in love through our offerings, so that they may hear the love in his voice through what we do. Let us present our offerings to God.

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 (Sue):** Many sit and wait, with no expectation that help will ever come. Receive these gifts from us, O God, and use them to be the help that others are waiting for. We dedicate them to your use, O God. Amen

Hymn of Departure: *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day* German carol, 15th century

1. Joy dawned again on Easter Day, the sun shone out with bright array;
For when the Apostles hid in fear, the Risen Christ to them appeared.
2. O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One, come take our hearts to be your own,
That we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise.
3. O Sovereign One, with us abide in this our joyful Easter-tide;
From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield.
(Latin, c. 5th century; transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.)

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.

† Benediction

Postlude: *The Great Gate of Kiev* (from "Pictures at an Exhibition")
Mussorgsky/Ravel
National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute, Kennedy Center Dance Lab
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYUCzuChwQg>

Special Thanks:

April 11, 2021

Lay Reader Bridget Sproul
Responder Sue Stenzel
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host Sue Maier

April 18, 2021

Lay Reader Betsey Wilson
Responder Jon Thompson
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host David Pastor

