

April 18th, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

“A godly life is lived out of an astonished heart—a heart that is astonished at grace.” –John Piper

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.

AS WE LOOK TO RE-OPEN -- AND MORE! There have been some great ideas for additional special services, and the Spiritual Life committee is all for it! However, we are a very small group right now, and we'd need more hands to implement your ideas. Currently, we need readers, ushers, and general helpers with setting up before and cleaning up after services. For special services like Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, we provide soup, the setup/cleanup crew and servers. We purchase palms, juice, wine, bread and anything else needed to ensure that services run smoothly. If there is any aspect of this type of activity that you are willing and able to do, we could really use your help! Please reach out to **Sue Maier** at Eyerienne@aol.com, or **Betsey Wilson** at betseywilson10@gmail.com, so we can talk about how you can participate in this ministry. Help us make 2021 the year that we come back stronger and better than ever!

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:

*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!***

(continued on next page)

Announcements (continued)

- 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.

****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! Thank you

YOUR VIDEOS: 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 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!

LENTEN FUNDRAISER - In spite of the global pandemic and 12+ months of the church building being closed, our CE kids are moving forward with their Lenten project! This year's offering consists of handpainted/colored key chains, and are available for your donation – all of the proceeds will go to the Cleveland Foodbank. They will be available at this week's parking lot meetings: Tuesday at 10am and Thursday at 5pm. Our kids have been working on these since February, so please consider supporting their fundraiser - thank you!

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.

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>

Gathering in God's Presence

Meditation: *"You may pray to God to remove the hills on your way and fill every pothole on your path; but don't be surprised if God gives you a shovel to do so!" –Israelmore Ayivor*

Prelude: *I Am the Resurrection* J. M. Talbot
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJtZaUHn_M0

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Cliff): When Jesus was placed in the tomb, the disciples thought their great adventure with God was over.
- ◆ **People (Jon): But it wasn't over! It was just beginning!**
- ◆ Leader: They thought their hopes had been dashed, and their dreams had been shattered.
- ◆ **People: But God had a better hope in store, and a different dream to guide their steps. Jesus was placed in the tomb, but he didn't stay there.**
- ◆ Leader: Jesus is still the Risen One, the One who surprises his people with new beginnings when all we can see are endings! Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise: *Now the Green Blade Rises* French noel, 15th century

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
 Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
 Love lives again, that with the dead has been:

REFRAIN: Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 Thinking that their Love would never wake again,
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: **REFRAIN**

3. Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
 Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: **REFRAIN**

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: **REFRAIN**

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Jon): You are the God of surprises, O Heavenly One, the God who forgives sin and raises people from the dead. You are the God of unexpected grace and unanticipated forgiveness. With sorrow we come before you with our confession of sinfulness; with joy we depart with a promise of eternal life! In repentance we fall on our knees; in mercy you raise us back on our feet. Forgive us what we have done, transform who we are, astonish us with what we will become. We ask it in the name of Christ Crucified and Risen. Amen**

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Cliff): Paul wrote to the Colossians: “God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God’s beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”**
- ◆ **People (Jon): “Now to the one who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.” (Ephesians 3: 20-21) 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:

Isaiah 51:11-16 *Joy after Sorrow*

Those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

“I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mere mortals, human beings who are but grass, that you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretches out the heavens and who lays the foundations of the earth, that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction? For where is the wrath of the oppressor? The cowering prisoners will soon be set free; they will not die in their dungeon, nor will they lack bread. For I am the Lord your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the Lord Almighty is his name. I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand—I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan): **Luke 24:13-35** *The Walk to Emmaus*

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Contemporary Reading:

From *The Path to True Happiness*, by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"There is nothing more wonderful than when you have been hiding yourself from God, as it were, afraid to look at God, but at last in desperation you just have to look up, and you see the most surprising thing you have ever seen. There is a look of love. There is a look of compassion and of mercy and of pity and of welcome, and you see the great invitation, "Come!" And you go back to God filled with 'joy unspeakable and full of glory'."

Musical Offering: ***Emmaus Song (Come Journey with Us)***
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lez0EpUGGqA>

Sermon: ***The Walk to Emmaus*** Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: ***Jesus, Sovereign, Savior*** Vaughan Williams

1. Jesus, Sovereign, Savior, once for sinners slain,
 crucified in weakness, raised in power to reign,
 Dwelling now immortal, endless in your days,
 unto you be glory, honor, blessing, praise.
2. Faithful ones communing towards the close of day,
 desolate and weary, met you on the way.
 So, when sun is setting, come to us and show
 your truth, and within us make our hearts to glow.
3. In the upper chamber, followers, in fear,
 gathered sad and troubled, there you did appear.
 Christ, be present with us, bid our sorrows cease;
 breathing on us, Savior, say, "I give you peace."
Patrick M. Kirkland (1857-1943); alt.

The Church at Prayer

David Pastor, Bill Toneff, Lenore Harris, Cindy Burton, Joe & Betsey Wilson and family, Ann Roha, 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, 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 (Cliff): Even in their sadness at the death of Jesus, Jesus' disciples were ready to listen to the stranger they met on the road, and to offer hospitality. Let us offer what we can to each other, and to strangers, for by so doing some have entertained angels, or even the Lord. Let us present our gifts and 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 (Jon): **In the midst of sharing what they had with a stranger, the Emmaus disciples recognized that the risen Jesus was in their midst. May we know the presence of the risen Christ through the sharing of our gifts. Amen**

Holy	† The Invitation	‡ Prayer of Consecration
Communion	† Words of Institution	‡ Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

People (Jon): In the breaking of the bread, we recognize you, O risen Jesus, just as they recognized you long ago after the trip to Emmaus. With astonishment at your presence, we give you thanks for sharing your life with us once again. Amen

Hymn of Departure: *The Day of Resurrection* Smart

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.
(John of Damascus, 8th century; transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; 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.

Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A

† Benediction

Postlude:

Sinfonia from Easter Oratorio

J. S. Bach

Collegium Vocale, Gent; Philippe Herreweghe, conductor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dgL8J1OsP8>

Special Thanks:

April 18, 2021

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

April 25, 2021

Lay Reader Carol Miller
Responder Pat Rehm
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host Heidi Spangler