

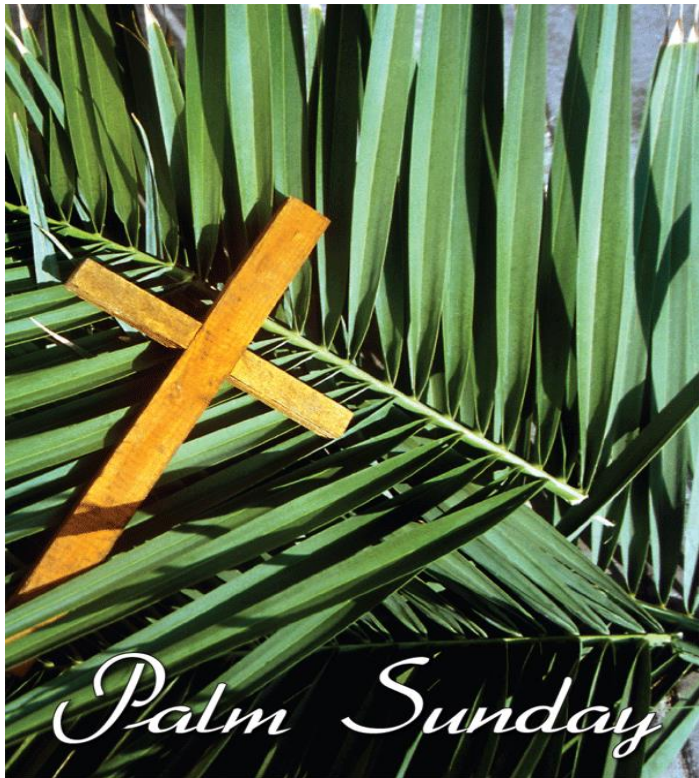
BRECKSVILLE

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

Gracious Holy One, as we process with our palms, prepare us for what is to come. As we read, hear, and experience this familiar story, remind us of its central place in our faith story. Open us to a new encounter with your love, and an experience of your promises being kept. Amen.



Sunday March 25, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

Pastor

• Rev David Shackle

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers

All of our Members

Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

Affirmation of Welcome

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

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are male, female, or transgender,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic,

Or a life-long member of the UCC,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person with differing abilities,

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!

WELCOME TO VISITING PARENTS

We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour:

- ✧ Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery.
- ✧ Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers.
- ✧ Crayons and paper for children are also available from ushers.

Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave, and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, or becoming a member, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for one. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Williams Sound Personal PA receiver available for your use in the sanctuary. Pillows for your back support are also available.

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

March 25, 2018 – Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

Meditation Music

Compassionate Holy One, on this Palm Sunday, we pray for peace in Jerusalem and throughout Israel/Palestine. We pray for all those who long for and work for peace and justice, and we thank you for their persistence and courage. Give us courage to also work for justice and peace in our communities, nation, and world. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

***Processional Gospel**

Leader: When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a donkey that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say, 'The teacher has need of it.'"

People: So those who were sent departed and found it as Jesus had told them.

L: Then they brought the donkey to Jesus; and after throwing their garments on it, they set Jesus upon it.

P: As he rode along, most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

L: As he approached the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

All: "Hosanna to the Heir of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!"

L: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, order your followers to stop."

P: But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these people were silent, the stones themselves would shout out."

L: This is the Good News for today!

All: Thanks be to God!

***Processional of Palms**

Palm Procession Music

Hosanna in the Highest!

Navis, Jr.

*[Becky Anderson, Erin Tomlinson, Betsey Wilson, flute;
Pastor Dave, trumpet; Youth Percussion Group]*

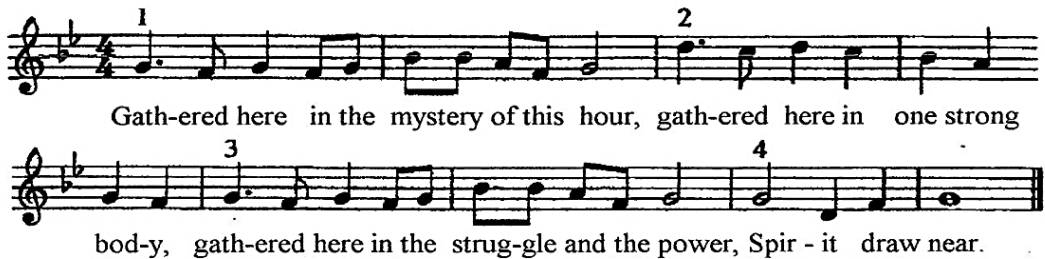
Bearing the Light of Peace
Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Prayer of Invocation [unison]**

Gracious Holy One, just as Jesus was joyfully greeted as he entered Jerusalem, so may we too welcome him into our hearts and lives today. Grant that we may open ourselves to hear the Good News of peace and grace that Jesus brought as your Messenger and Prophet. This we pray in the name of the One who comes to serve and to save. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Gathered Here - #742 [sung 2 times]



The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to one flat. The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics 'Gath-ered here in the mystery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.' There are four numbered measures (1, 2, 3, 4) indicated above the notes.

The Old Testament

Isaiah 50:4-9

Pew Bible, page 681

The New Testament

Matthew 27:11-31

Pew Bible, page 32

The Continuing Testament

by Ricky Woods, in *The African American Lectionary*

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

The Palms

Faure

Sermon

Putting Ourselves in Harm's Way

Pastor Dave Shackle

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

The Prayer of Jesus

[we use "Mother" to reflect our theological understanding of the Inclusive Nature of The Holy One]

...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.

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

Schubert

*** Offertory Hymn**

**We now are in the time of Lent,
To learn again what Jesus meant.
His life and message are so great,
We send these gifts to celebrate. Amen.**

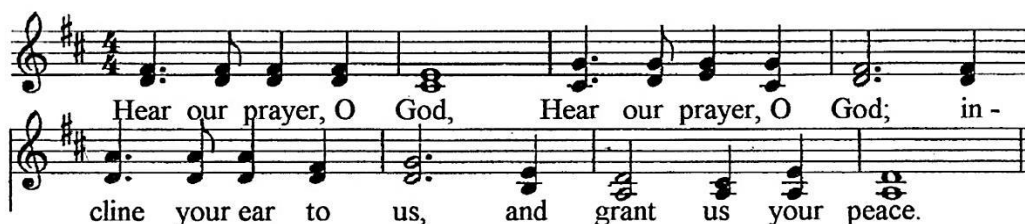
*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

Compassionate Holy One, in the shadow of the Cross we stand in humble awe. As we remember Jesus Christ gracious giving of himself for our sakes, we are overwhelmed. Grant that we may faithfully follow his example and fully give ourselves to your mission of reconciliation, justice, and peace. We pray that you would bless our gifts and bless us, that both gift and giver may be used in your service and in service to others. Amen.

Going with God's Love

- * Hymn of Departure Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #213
- * Carrying the Light of Christ into the World Acolyte
- * Circle of Community Hear Our Prayer, O God - sung twice

*As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Hear our Prayer, O God.** After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith*



Hear our prayer, O God, Hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

*Benediction

Postlude March (from *Le Prophète*) Meyerbeer

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The Family of Donn Whyte, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, Shirley Duncan, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections or changes to our prayer lists.)

Attendance March 18, 2018 – Adults: 72 Kids: 15 Total: 87

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

WE WELCOME VISITING PARENTS -We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour: Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery. Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers. Crayons and paper are also available from ushers for children.

A LONG-STANDING LENTEN TRADITION within the Christian Church is to “put away” hymns or verses which contain “Alleluias”, and to set a more reflective tone with our musical selections. The purpose of this is so that on Easter Sunday, our “Alleluias” and praise can ring-out with renewed freshness and vigor, as we hail the Risen Christ. This is why we are using a different Song of Praise and concluding hymn for the benediction today.

HOLY WEEK/EASTER OPPORTUNITIES AT BUCC:

March 29th - Maunday Thursday Soup Supper at 6:30; 7:00 Celebration of Christ’s Last Supper and reenacting Christ’s example washing his disciple’s feet.

March 30th - 7:00 pm. Saint Bridget Good Friday Service

March 31st - Holy Saturday - Saint Bridget Easter Vigil at 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary [The Community of Saint Bridget is the group that holds Mass here on Saturdays, led by Ann Klonowski and Mary Collingwood.]

April 1st - 7:00 - Easter morning Sunrise Service in Highland Cemetery,
10:00 - Easter Celebration Service .

[The Brecksville/Highland Cemetery is on Highland Drive, just South of Rte. 82 - park at the water tower]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! "Pat Bailey's birthday is Wednesday, March 28th and she will be 75 years young. Please help her celebrate by sending a card. Address is: Vista Springs, 8400 S Bedford Road, #108, Macedonia, Ohio 44056."

C.E. This year’s Christian Education Lenten project is going to support the Cleveland Roots! Cleveland Roots creates opportunities for urban agriculture, and educational programs that empower people to grow their own produce. Their goals are to provide affordable access to fresh produce, promote healthy living, nurture the environment, and cultivate community. The C.E. students have been hard at work making decorative magnets to help raise funds for the building of a protective fence around the farm to protect the crops from animal nibblers! If you have any questions about Cleveland Roots, feel free to ask Anne Melfo or Doug Fawcett at church, or [email info@clevelandroots.org](mailto:email_info@clevelandroots.org). Magnets will go on sale Palm Sunday, March 25th with a suggested minimum of one share (\$5) but can go up to as many shares as you’d like! Sales will continue through Easter. Thanks for your support!

NAME TAGS are available for you to wear in the church and at coffee hour. These are helpful to visitors and new members to get to know our people. If you are missing a name tag, please let the Office know.

THE BLESSINGS JAR is for your use to drop in a note and/or money in response to a special blessing you have received during the week. We would like to recognize your blessing in the Pillar if you wish.

THE PEACE CANDLE is placed up front every Sunday to remind us of Jesus' teachings on peace and peacemakers. We pray that peace between nations, within our country, community, families, and ourselves will become a priority for all.

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedule on the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the *Weekly Bulletin* and in the *Monthly Pillar*.

Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 50:4-9

The Holy One has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning God wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Holy One has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Holy One helps me, therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; the One who exonerates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Holy One who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

The New Testament - Matthew 27:11-31

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Continuing Testament - by Ricky Woods, in *The African American Lectionary* [edited]

One should never forget that within the crowd that meets Jesus in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday are those who do not celebrate his coming, but plan to destroy him. The entry into Jerusalem is not only Jesus going to a place of danger, but it involves him engaging in dangerous activity. To enter Jerusalem amidst shouts of affirmation and waving palm branches could be seen as an act of defiance against Roman rule. What softens the hint of defiance is that Jesus rides in on a donkey and not a warrior's horse.

This shows that God's plan of deliverance would not come by violence, but would come through humility and love. It is hope, humility and love operating in an environment of danger that shows us what God can accomplish, and how.

The Church is sometimes called upon to engage in dangerous activity, whether it is speaking out on issues of injustice or providing theological clarity about the Church's purpose in a culture that craves violence. Palm Sunday is more than a day of celebration by the Church as it awaits Easter.

It is also a day of reflection on how the presence of believers in dangerous places can transform them into places of hope. Palm Sunday is God's reminder to us of what can be done when courage, humility, love and hope coalesce and enter places of danger; and what can happen when those filled with these character traits engage in dangerous activity. Wherever people of faith are present, their presence can transform the space they occupy into a place of hope.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 25	10:00 am	Worship Service/Palm Sunday
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry
Wednesday, March 28	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer/ Guitar
Thursday, March 29	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	6:30 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Maundy Sunday Services
Friday, March 30		*Office Closed*
	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service – Sanctuary
Saturday, March 31	10:00 am	Choir Easter Rehearsal
Sunday, April 1	7:00 am	Sunrise Service – Highland Cemetery
	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

MARCH 25, 2018

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Head Usher Sue Stenzel
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Carole & George Snider

Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Ben Davis
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: PALMS
Nursery: Courtni Began
C.E Teacher: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Bruce McCain, Matt
Wolbert

Servers: Leroy & Kathy Ford
Clean Up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Snacks: Gina Cook & Chad Sproul
Snow Herder: Wes Novak

MARCH 29, 2018

Snow Herder: Cliff Cribbs

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 1, 2018

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Kathy Smith, Kate
Klonowski, Betsey & Joe
Wilson

Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard
Flowers: Easter Lilies
Nursery: Jess Barnes
C.E Teacher: No CE Class
Counters: Matt Wolbert, Nancy Stella
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Julie
Bernard

Clean-up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Snacks: Beth Rehling, Sue Stenzel
Snow Herder: Doug Fawcett