



# BRECKSVILLE

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# 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***

"She is so bright and glorious that you cannot look at her face or her garments for the splendor with which she shines. ...

But she is with everyone and in everyone, and so beautiful is her secret that no person can know the sweetness with which she sustains people, and nurtures them in inscrutable mercy."

— Hildegard von Bingen



Illustration by Julie Lonneman, 2015.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 • 10:00 AM**

***Pastor***

• Rev. John King

***Director of  
Music***

• David Debick

***Financial  
Secretary***

• Joy Garapic

***Office  
Manager***

• Anne Melfo

***Ministers – All of Our Members***

## **Affirmation of 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!***



- *Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.*
- *Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.*

***Office Hours:***

***Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm***

***Church Phone: 440-526-4364***

***e-mail: [buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

# Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Meditation Music

*“This is for the Mother  
Breaking eons of fettered chains  
For the children she has birthed  
Through blood and breaths of change  
She calls them Redemption  
Regardless of their names.”*

— *Mishi McCoy*

## **Gathering in God’s Presence**

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

**Prelude**    *Pastorale*

Charles Wesley (1757-1834)

## **Bearing the Light of Peace / Bearing the Light of Christ**

### **\* Call to Worship (based on Revelation 7:9-16):**

One: We gather once more as a great multitude; from various peoples and places we’ve come.

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power be to our God.**

One: We gather once more to shout “Alleluia!” Salvation belongs to the Holy One.

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power be to our God.**

One: We gather to worship day and night, the one who guides us to the springs of life.

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power be to our God.**

### **\* Hymn of Praise**

### ***Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us***

#252

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;  
in your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.

2. We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

3. Let us always seek your favor; let us always do your will;  
Jesus Christ our only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

(Music: William B. Bradbury, 1859; words: attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847)

**\* Prayer of Invocation (Based on Psalm 23): [UNISON]**

**God, our shepherd – Restorer of our souls – The one who calls us to nap in green pastures – We enter into this moment of worshipful gathering, trusting that you will guide us along the paths of righteousness.**

**Wherever we may be in this world, let us know the comforting presence of your rod and staff. We are expectant, O God, that our fears will fade, that our cups will overflow, and that your goodness and mercy will accompany us in this hour and beyond. Now, let us worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen**

**\* Call to Repentance**

Leader: God, as you call us more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence, let us acknowledge the ways our unbelief has separated us from your vision for our lives and all creation.

\*\*\*\*\**(Moment of silence)*\*\*\*\*\*

**All: God, we confess that we often let hopelessness have too much power over our lives. In the face of crisis, our faith has frequently faltered. In the midst of calamity, our fearlessness has faded. In the presence of tribulation, our worry has weakened our ability to act justly. Help our unbelief, O God!**

**Bring us back to you, Great Redeemer. Remind us of the unfailing treasure that is in your love and care for all of creation – for your grace is sufficient, from the valley of death to the tables you’ve prepared for us. Embolden us, again, and revive our spirits.**

**\* Words of Assurance**

**\* Song of Praise:**                      ***Glory to God***                      Pablo Sosa, 1988

*Glory, glory, glory –  
Glory to God in the highest! (2X’s)  
And on earth be peace to all people,  
For God loves us all! (2X’s)*

***God Is Still Speaking***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading**                      **Ps. 23 (The Inclusive Bible)**  
**Second Reading**                      **John 10:22-30 (The Inclusive Bible)**  
**Continuing Testament**                      ***Prayers of the Cosmos*, by Neil Douglas-Klotz**



***Time with Young Worshippers***



## Anthem

### **Gentle Shepherd**

Colgan

*Refrain: O Jesus, gentle Shepherd and living bread:*

*Feed us, guide us to the land of everlasting life.*

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

*Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. (Refrain)*

*You have prepared me a banquet in the sight of my foes.*

*My head you have anointed with precious oil, and my cup is overflowing. (Refrain)*

*Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all my days.*

*In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever. (Refrain)*

(Music: Fr. Tobias Colgan, O.S.B., 1979; words based on Psalm 23)

## Sermon

By Pastor John King

## Hymn of Reflection:

### ***Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth***

#467

1. Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.  
Creator, Source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun:  
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
2. Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,  
Grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace;  
your very body for my peace.
3. Mothering Spirit, nurturing One, in arms of patience hold me close,  
So that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know;  
until I flower, until I know.

(Music: Jonathan McNair, 1994; words: Jean Janzen, 1991, based on the writings of Julian of Norwich, c. 1342-1416)

### ***The Church at Prayer***

Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Allison Colbert, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, George Snider, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jim C., Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Jon Thompson, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), "Edna House", 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

**...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

\* **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 of Our Offerings:** [UNISON]

O God, take these gifts and multiply them for the healing of your beloved world;  
know that we offer them as praise to you: **Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!**

## Going with God's Love

\* **Hymn of Departure**        *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

#493

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
    remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:  
    I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,  
    nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
2. O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,  
    above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will!  
    O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!  
    O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!
3. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
    that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;  
    And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
    O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!

(Music: A. H. Mann, 1883; words: John E. Bode, 1868; alt.)

## Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

Musical notation for the hymn "Carrying the Light of Christ into the World" by Acolyte. The score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is on the top staff, and the bass line is on the bottom staff. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A. The lyrics are: 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** (Pastor John)

**Postlude**    *Praise Our God Together Singing Alleluia*    Words and Music Anonymous  
Assisted by Percussion Group

## Readings

### First Reading

#### Ps. 23 (The Inclusive Bible)

YHWH, you are my shepherd - I want nothing more. You let me lie down in green meadows; you lead me beside restful waters: you refresh my soul. You guide me to lush pastures for the sake of your Name. Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death, I fear no danger, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff - they give me courage. You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies, and you anoint my head with oil - my cup overflows! Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house, YHWH, for days without end.

### Second Reading

#### John 10:22-30 (The Inclusive Bible)

The time came for Hanukkah, the Feast of the Dedication, in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the Temple area, in Solomon's Porch, when the Temple authorities surrounded him and said, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you really are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus replied, "I did tell you, but you don't believe. The work I do in my Abba's name gives witness in my favor, but you don't believe because you're not my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never be lost. No one will ever snatch them from my hand. Abba God, who gave them to me, is greater than anyone, and no one can steal them from Abba God. For Abba and I are One."

### Continuing Testament – *Prayers of the Cosmos*, by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The prayer begins with an expression of the divine creation and the blessing that emanates from all parenting. The ancient Middle Eastern root "ab" refers to all fruit, all germination proceeding from the source of Unity. This root came to be used in the Aramaic word for personal father - "abba" - but still echoes its original ungendered root in sound-meaning. While "abwoon" is a derivative of this word for personal father, its original roots do not specify a gender and could be translated "divine parent." These roots reveal many levels of meaning. "Bwn" shows the ray or emanation of that father/ motherhood proceeding from potential to actual, here and now. In Aramaic, the character for "b" may also be pronounced "w" or include shades of both. An Aramaic scholar, the Reverend Mar Aprem (1981), notes that the same root (ab) may stand for "personal" father or "spiritual" father, depending on whether the "w" (for personal) or the "b" (for spiritual) is emphasized. No doubt, Jesus meant there to be an echo of both, as Aramaic is rich in this sublime wordplay. Further, according to the mystical science of sounds and letters, common to both Aramaic and Hebrew, the word "abwoon" points beyond our changing concepts of "male" and "female", to a cosmic birthing process.

## Announcements

**BIRTHDAY** – Apologies to Lenore Harris, whose birthday was not listed in the May *Pillar*. Please note that Lenore’s birthday is May 30<sup>th</sup>. To ensure that your birthday isn’t missed, please complete that information in your Breeze profile (or contact the office for assistance). Thank You!

## *Special Thanks:*

### May 8, 2022

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
Heidi Spangler  
**Lay Reader:** Jill Zedan  
**Greeter:** Dorie Gabor  
**Nursery:** Val Duffy  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Dorie Gabor  
**Acolyte:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Peace Candle:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Flowers:** Tia Began  
**Snack:** Julie Bernard  
Heidi Spangler  
**Set Up/Serve:** Sherrill Witt  
Bill Witt  
**Clean Up:** Sherrill Witt  
Bill Witt

### May 15, 2022

**Head Usher:** Jon Thompson  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
Kathy Smith  
**Lay Reader:** Carol Miller  
**Greeter:** Sherrill Witt  
**Nursery:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Peace Candle:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**A/V Team:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Flowers:** Julie Bernard  
**Snack:** Lois Lorenzo  
*Volunteer Needed*  
**Set Up/Serve:** Bill Witt  
Sherrill Witt  
**Clean Up:** Bill Witt  
Sherrill Witt