



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*

*"Everything can  
be taken from  
a person  
but one thing:  
the last of  
human freedoms -  
to choose one's  
attitude  
in any given set  
of circumstances,  
to choose one's  
own way."  
- Viktor E. Frankl*



**Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 22<sup>nd</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!**

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

## Welcome & Announcements

### Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*“Carry goodness, not guns.” - Abhijit Naskar*



## **Gathering in God's Presence**

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

**Prelude**    ***Christ, the Fair Glory of the Holy Angels***    Paris Antiphoner, 1681

*“Christ is the world's peace: he and none other;  
no one can serve him while despising sister, brother—  
Who else unites us, one in God our Maker?  
Glory to God on high!”  
(F. Pratt Green, 1968)*

### **\* Call to Prayer:**

Leader: Come, sisters, brothers, let's join together in prayer.

**All: Let the Creator be at home among us.**

Leader: In our hearts, may God be welcome.

**All: May God's love shape our every thought.**

Leader: May our actions lead to God's justice.

**All: May our words be words of life.**

Leader: May God's Spirit lead us.

**All: May God's peace dwell within us. Amen**

## \* Hymn of Praise

## *Community of Christ*

#314, v. 1-3

1. Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:  
The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race and every song.

2. Community of Christ, look past the church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.  
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

3. Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound—  
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world 'round:  
Disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

(Music: Traditional Hebrew melody, adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770; words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1985)

## \* Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]

**God's love is our nourishment; God's truth, our liberation; God's words, our wisdom; God's peace, our home. Welcome to the love of God.**

## \* Prayer of Confession: [UNISON]

**Eternal Creator, we have not yet learned to love as you love. We have spoken praise in our mouths when our hearts were far from you. The gifts you gave for our peace, we have weaponized. Yet, even in our failings, your love has never failed us. Even when we turned you away, you still choose to make your home among us.**

**Our hearts are troubled - we are enmeshed in fear. Creation needs you. Our families need you. Our streets need you. Our cities need you. The soil needs you. Our souls need you.**

**Heal us. Forgive us. Make us whole again.**

## \* Prayer of Assurance: (Pastor John)

\* **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 Revelation 21:10, 21:21-22-5 (The Message)**

**Second Reading John 14:23-29 (The Inclusive Bible)**

**Continuing Testament Tao Te Ching # 16 (Stephen Mitchell translation)**



### **Time with Young Worshippers**



**Anthem**

### **Peace Prayer**

**Foley**

*Lord, make me a means of Your peace.  
Where there's hatred grown, let me sow Your love.  
Where there's injury, Lord, let forgiveness be my sword.  
Lord, make me a means of Your peace.  
Lord, make me a means of Your peace.  
Where there's doubt and fear, let me sow Your faith.  
In this world's despair, give me hope in You to share.  
Lord, make me a means of Your peace.  
Lord, make me a means of Your peace.  
When there's sadness here, let me sow Your joy.  
When the darkness nears, may Your light dispel our fears.  
Lord, make me a means of Your peace.  
Lord, grant me to seek and to share:  
less to be consoled than to help console,  
less be understood than to understand Your good.  
Lord, make me a means of Your peace.  
Lord, grant me to seek and to share:  
to receive love less than to give love free,  
just to give in Thee, just receiving from Your tree.  
Lord, make me a means of Your peace.  
Lord, grant me to seek and to share:  
to forgive in Thee, You've forgiven me;  
for to die in Thee, is eternal life to me.  
Lord, make me a means of Your peace.*

*(Music: John Foley, SJ, 1976; arr. Foley/Debick; words: based on Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, 1181?-1226)*

**Hymn of Reflection: *I’ve Got Peace Like a River***

#478

1. I’ve got peace like a river, **(twice)**  
I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul. **(Repeat)**
2. I’ve got joy like a fountain, **(twice)**  
I’ve got joy like a fountain, in my soul. **(Repeat)**
3. I’ve got love like an ocean, **(twice)**  
I’ve got love like an ocean, in my soul. **(Repeat)**
4. I’ve got faith like an anchor, **(twice)**  
I’ve got faith like an anchor, in my soul. **(Repeat)**  
(Words and Music: African American spiritual)

***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: [UNISON]**

...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.

\* **Call to Offering:**

Leader: Our God does not give peace as the world gives. In the chaos, God is our peace. In our fear, God is our confidence. In our weakness, God is our strength. Let us offer our gifts to God.

\* **Prayer of Dedication:** [UNISON]

May these gifts be used to build the Beloved Community through our hands of service, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

## *Going with God's Love*

\***Hymn of Departure**      *Shall We Gather at the River*      #597, v. 1, 2 & 4

1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

**Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

2. On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. **(Refrain)**

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. **(Refrain)**

(Music: Robert Lowry, 1864; words: Robert Lowry, alt.)



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

### \* Circle of Community

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah**. 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

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 (Pastor John)

### Postlude

*From Glory to Glory*  
Assisted by Percussion Group

Holst



Thank You for joining us Today -

Have a Great Week!

## **Announcements**

**FLOWERS** - Today's flowers are dedicated by Mindy Harris, "In honor of Lenore Harris' 91<sup>st</sup> birthday and in memory of Bill Harris' 94<sup>th</sup> birthday."

**BUTTERFLIES** - Stewardship has the last batch of caterpillars available for adoption today in Pilgrim Hall, following the service. The kits include everything you will need to help these caterpillars emerge as butterflies for release on Pentecost. We invite you to send your reflections on caterpillars and butterflies for an insert on Sunday 5/29 and ask that you email them to the BUCC office by Tuesday 5/24.

**POSTCARDS IN PILGRIM HALL** - On Wednesday, June 1st, we'll be gathering in Pilgrim Hall from 6:30 – 8:30 pm to write postcards to Ohio legislators, urging them to vote "no" on House Bill 616. If you are not familiar with this bill, you can review the content and summary here: <https://ohiohouse.gov/legislation/134/hb616>

We will be providing the postcards, postage, and some pizza for dinner, along with sample copy that you can use to write your message. Our friends from Brecksville UMC will be joining us for this event, as well as other members of the community who are also opposed to the bill.

If you'd like to attend the event, please fill out the registration form so we can have an estimated count of who will be there. Please feel free to invite friends in the community who would like to join us in our efforts. All are welcome! Here's a link to the registration form. <https://buccoh.breezechms.com/form/pph0601>

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Heidi Spangler or call the church office at 440-526-4364.

**EDNA HOUSE** – Due to the generosity of BUCC, OCWM will be sending a check for \$611.00 to Edna House – Thank you all so much!

## Readings

### First Reading

#### Revelation 21:10, 21:21-22-5 (The Message)

The angel took me away in the Spirit to an enormous, high mountain and showed me Holy Jerusalem descending out of Heaven from God, resplendent in the bright glory of God. The City shimmered like a precious gem, light-filled, pulsing light.

The main street of the City was pure gold, translucent as glass. But there was no sign of a Temple, for the Lord God—the Sovereign-Strong—and the Lamb are the Temple. The City doesn't need sun or moon for light. God's Glory is its light, the Lamb its lamp! The nations will walk in its light and earth's kings bring in their splendor. Its gates will never be shut by day, and there won't be any night. They'll bring the glory and honor of the nations into the City.

Then the Angel showed me Water-of-Life River, crystal bright. It flowed from the Throne of God and the Lamb, right down the middle of the street. The Tree of Life was planted on each side of the River, producing twelve kinds of fruit, a ripe fruit each month. The leaves of the Tree are for healing the nations. Never again will anything be cursed. The Throne of God and of the Lamb is at the center. God's servants will offer God service—worshiping, they'll look on his face, their foreheads mirroring God. Never again will there be any night. No one will need lamplight or sunlight. The shining of God, the Eternal, is all the light anyone needs. And they will rule together age after age after age.

### Second Reading

#### John 14:23-29 (The Inclusive Bible)

The night before He died, Jesus said, "Those who love me will be true to my word, and Abba God will love them; and we will come to them and make our dwelling place with them. Those who don't love me don't keep my words. Yet the message you hear is not mine; it comes from Abba God who sent me. This much have I said to you while still with you; but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom Abba God will send in my name, will instruct you in everything and she will remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; but the kind of peace I give you is not like the world's peace. Don't let your hearts be distressed; don't be fearful. You've heard me say, 'I am going away but I will return.' If you really loved me, you would rejoice because I am going to Abba God, for Abba is greater than I. I tell you this now, before it happens, so that when it happens you will believe.

## Readings

### Continuing Testament

*Tao Te Ching # 16* (Stephen Mitchell translation)

Empty your mind of all thoughts.  
Let your heart be at peace.  
Watch the turmoil of beings,  
but contemplate their return.

Each separate being in the universe  
returns to the common source.  
Returning to the source is serenity.

If you don't realize the source,  
you stumble in confusion and sorrow.  
When you realize where you come from,  
you naturally become tolerant,  
disinterested, amused,  
kindhearted as a grandmother,  
dignified as a king.

Immersed in the wonder of the Tao,  
you can deal with whatever life brings you,  
and when death comes, you are ready.

# Special Thanks:

## May 22, 2022

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
Heidi Spangler  
**Lay Reader:** Carol Miller  
**Greeter:** Jon Thompson  
**Nursery:** Evie Novak  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Kathy Pastor  
**Acolyte:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Peace Candle:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Flowers:** Carole Snider  
**Snack:** Kathy Ford  
Leroy Ford  
**Set Up/Serve:** Kathy Ford  
Sue Stenzel  
**Clean Up:** Leroy Ford  
Sue Stenzel

## May 29, 2022

**Head Usher:** Jill Zedan  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
Sue Stenzel  
**Lay Reader:** Rose Kaval  
**Greeter:** Sherrill Witt  
**Nursery:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Peace Candle:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**A/V Team:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Flowers:** Sue Stenzel  
**Snack:** Diane Gressley  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Set Up/Serve:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Clean Up:** Dave Bernard  
***Volunteer Needed***