

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, or 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., Fri.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

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

OCTOBER 27, 2013 – TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Compassionate Holy One, sometimes we are disheartened when we see that your vision of peace and equality seems to lie in tatters. Let us not lose hope that the world you desire - a world of justice and enough for all - is still possible. Inspire us to faithfully pursue this vision as our eminent goal. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Prelude

Alain

**Bearing the Light of Peace
Bearing the Light of Christ**

*** Call to Worship**

L: Divine source of Mercy, Peace and Strength,

P: We bring ourselves to you this day.

L: We bring all that we value;

P: We bring all that we love.

L: We bring our hopes and our fears;

P: We bring our faith and our prayers.

L: Gather us together in your grace,

All: And guide us in your loving ways!

*** Hymn of Praise**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

#21

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

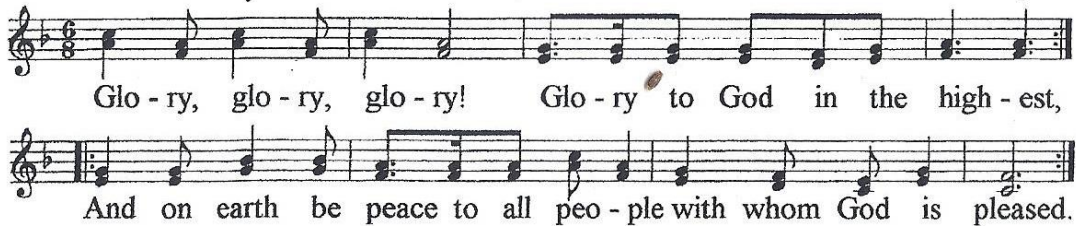
Gracious Holy One, you open your arms to everyone, and your loving embrace reaches out to the whole creation. As we come together today, teach us to welcome others as joyfully as you have welcomed us. Open our eyes to see those who are waiting for an invitation, and open our hearts to be the welcoming people you call us to be. Enlighten us with your Spirit and guide

us by your compassionate grace, we pray in the name of Christ our Brother, Example, and Friend. Amen.

* The Song of Praise

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Time with Young Worshipers

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism bears witness to the Divine Love and Grace that is extended to each of us at every stage of our lives.

P: Today we celebrate God's love for this child, and offer ourselves as instruments of that love in her life.

L: When parents brought their children to Jesus so that he might touch them, his disciples rebuked them; but when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,

P: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Realm of God.

L: Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Realm of God like a little child, shall not enter it."

P: Then Jesus took the children into his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is an outward and visible sign of Divine Grace.

Because the promise of the Gospel is not only to us, but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's Church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith.

P: Out of the Water of Holy Baptism, we rise with new life, forgiveness and grace as members of the One Body of Christ.

Promises of the parents and Godparents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage her to resist the power of evil, and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach and encourage her that she may be inspired to know and follow Jesus Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to grow with her in the Christian faith, to help her be a faithful member of the Church - by celebrating Christ's presence here, by furthering Christ's mission in the world, and by offering her the on-going nurture of the Church?

All: We do, with the help of God.

The Congregational Promise

Pastor: Members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ: Are you prepared to welcome, encourage and pray for Cameron as she grows in faith among us?

People: We promise our love, our support and our care as she lives and grows among us as a child of God.

The Old Testament	Joel 2:23-32	Pew Bible, page 848
The New Testament	Luke 18:9-14	Pew Bible, page 81
The Continuing Testament	by Michael Gerson	in <i>The Washington Post</i>

Musical Offering	Cry for Humility Christ Our Life	(Canada)
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Sermon	<i>Holy Hypocrite!</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
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Hymn of Reflection	Not My Brother, nor My Sister	#519
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The Church at Prayer

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.**

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

Thy Way

Deas

“Hide me from self, O Lord,
may I attend Thy word;
send pride beyond recall,
let each assailer fall,
be Thou my all in all,
Thy will be done.”

Nina B. Jackson

***The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all Blessings flow
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Gracious God, we offer our gifts from the abundance entrusted to us. Bless
these gifts, that they may be used to help bring the light of your love to
people and places where it is needed. Help us to bear witness to your
amazing love and grace, not only through our giving, but also through our
lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Light and Life. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

For the Beauty of the Earth

#28

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolyte

Circle of Fellowship

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 through once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.

Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

Lyrics: 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.

*Commission and Benediction

Postlude

Fount of Love, Our Savior God
[Assisted by Percussion Group]

Ancient Chinese, arr. Loh

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Doug Lightbody, Nancy Foose, Bill & Ann Toneff, Beth Rehling, Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, Effie Pappas, Betty Batsch, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

Attendance Sunday, October 20, 2013 –Adults: 87 Kids: 16 Total: 103

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Peg Duffy & Shauna Bigelow in Thanks for all the Holy Men and Women who have gone before us.

TODAY WE WELCOME *Cameron Rose*, daughter of Michelle Rogers and Vonda Ward, into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. A special

welcome also to Cameron's Godparents, Ed and Cindy King, and other family and friends visiting with us on this special day. We ask God's continuing blessings on Cameron and her family, and on our entire BUCC Family of Faith!

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

ADVENT BOOK TIME AGAIN Today during coffee hour, Jon Thompson of the Spiritual Life ministry will be seeking willing writers to contribute to this year's Advent Devotional Book. This is a project in which participants select an offered passage of scripture regarding Advent, which starts this year on 12/1/13, Christmas, or Epiphany, through 1/6/14. That's 43 days in all. You will write around 300 words in response to it. It can be a reflection on that passage or something else you might want to share regarding this season. The writing concludes with a brief prayer. Jon will explain all and there's a sheet of instructions as well. This is something BUCC has done for years. It's by us and for us and is something that can be enjoyed throughout the holiday season. We look forward to the finished product!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME is next weekend, don't forget to **turn back** your clocks one hour, or you may become the newest member of The Choir!

MITTEN TREE Cold weather is coming and that means it is time to set up BUCC's magical Mitten Tree. No, the tree doesn't grow mittens but they do appear magically. The tree is now in the Narthex waiting for your decorations - hats, socks, mittens, or scarves. Children in the inner city will appreciate them. We also have some yarn and directions if you would like to make mittens or hats.

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.

YOUR NEW ROOF Look for a display of the "before and after" pictures at fellowship hour today. \$30,000 has been given by very generous members and friends. \$4,330 is still needed to reach our goal.

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedule in the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the weekly bulletin and in the monthly Pillar.

OUR ANNUAL LEAF CLEAN-UP PARTIES will be held on the Sat. mornings of Oct 26 and Nov.16 starting at 8:30 am. Besides blowing leaves to the curb (if you have a blower, bring it), there is pruning and weeding to be done. Bring your favorite tools. A return-address sticker makes a quick way to identify a left behind possession. Good

fellowship, fresh air, exercise and refreshments will be provided. See Jim Demko today or call him at 330-659-6324 and commit an hour or more.

DANCE PROGRAM: On Sunday November 10 at 4:00 p.m., Brecksville UCC will host the first program in our 2013-2014 free concert series. Members of the **Nritya Gitanjali School of Indian Classical Dance & Music** (based in Strongsville) will present a program of Classical Indian (Hindu) Dancing. Artistic Director Shoba Narayan will provide an overview of Indian culture and the Hindu religion; she will also discuss the symbolism of the dancers' movements. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program. Please plan on joining us for this unique intercultural event. For more information, contact Dave Debick.

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY items are small canned hams, canned sweet and white potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned mixed vegetables, pie crust mix, canned pumpkin, etc

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.

PASTOR DAVE can be contacted at the church office, 440-526-4364 or home at, 440-546-1193. He also be contacted by e-mail buccpastor@sbcglobal.net. Please do not hesitate to contact him if the need arises.

THE READINGS

The Old Testament - Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Holy One; who has given the early rain for your exoneration, and has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst

of Israel, and that I, the Holy One, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show signs in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and tremendous day comes. Then everyone who calls on my name shall be saved.

The New Testament - Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to those who trusted in themselves, that they were righteous, and regarded others with contempt: “Two people went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Continuing Testament - by Michael Gerson - in *The Washington Post* [edited]

Pope Francis...is clearly concerned that the message of Christianity has become obscured by ecclesiastical moralism. “The proclamation of the saving love of God,” he explained, “comes before moral and religious imperatives.” Just as clearly, this pope intends to be a disruptive force; the Vicar of Christ as troublemaker. Many casual observers of Christianity have found this surprising. They tend to view religion as identical to ethics. Remove the moral nagging and what remains?

This betrays a very casual acquaintance with Christianity, which was founded by a subversive, troublemaking critic of ecclesiastical moralism. Jesus managed to offend just about every cleric he encountered, whom he variously called “blind guides,” “whitewashed tombs” and a “brood of vipers.” True religion, he said, is not found in obedience to the letter of the law; it is an affair of the heart. And this friendship with God often comes easier to the powerless and outcast - children, sinners, women, gentiles and the poor. It was a message calculated to offend legalists in every generation: Ethical religion without love is arid and misleading. Relationships - with God and your neighbor - come first. In every way that matters to God, human beings are completely equal and completely loved. They can't be reduced to ethical object lessons. Their dignity runs deeper than their failures. They matter more than any cause; they *are* the cause.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 10/27/2013	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry
Tuesday 10/29/2013	10-11:30	CWRU-Mexico
Wednesday 10/30/2013	6 am	Early Birds
	5 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
Thursday 10/31/2013	1 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00 pm	Choir
Saturday 11/2/2013	9 am	Facilities
Sunday 11/3/2013	10 am	Worship
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE **OCTOBER 27, 2013**

LAY READER:	Kathy Pastor
HEAD USHER:	Jon Thompson
USHERS:	Sam Koch, Joanne Cook, Andrew Wilson, Max Roha
ACOLYTE:	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
PEACE CANDLE:	Drew Demko
SOUND:	Mike Westerberg
COMMONS GRTR:	George Snider
NARTHEX GRTR:	Ruth Morris
FLOWERS:	Kathy Pastor
NURSERY:	Robin Coyer-Westerberg
COUNTERS:	Bruce McCain, Anna Mary Fisher
SERVERS:	Darlene Kelly, Celia Kelly

CLEAN-UP:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
SNACKS:	Tia Began & Melissa Lund

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
NOVEMBER 3, 2013

LAY READER:	Evie Novak
HEAD USHER:	Caroline Chandler
USHERS:	Dave & Julie Bernard, David & Kathy Pastor
ACOLYTE:	Courtnei Began
PEACE CANDLE:	Carli Began
SOUND:	Max Roha
COMMONS GRTR:	Jane Cribbs
NARTHEX GRTR:	Marge Culver
FLOWERS:	Dot Bailey
NURSERY:	Peg Duffy
COUNTERS:	Nancy Stella, Betty Kaul
SERVERS:	Joy Garapic, Robin Coyer-Westerberg
CLEAN-UP:	David & Kathy Pastor
SNACKS:	Max Roha, Marge Culver