

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

DECEMBER 8, 2013 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Meditation Music

God of peace, it is for peace that we hope and pray. Peace in ourselves, peace in our homes, peace in our communities and peace in our world. Give us the wisdom and courage to be your lions and your lambs, to be your peacemakers. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry
"On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!"
Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

Praetorius

Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

L: Advent is a season of expectation and celebration.

P: It is a time of anticipation and joy!

L: As we prepare for the coming of that New Day, and await the celebration of Jesus' birth,

P: We also claim Christ's presence with us now, and gladly proclaim the joyous Good News:

L: Christ has come, Christ is here, Christ shall come again!

P: Watching and waiting, let us witness and serve - seeing the Christ in others, and revealing Christ's love in ourselves!

*** Hymn of Praise**

O How Shall I Receive You

#102

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

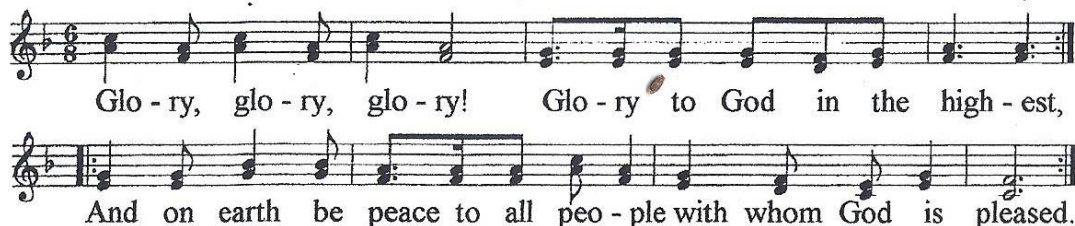
Divine Source of Life, in the person of Jesus Christ you came among us to share our whole lives: our strengths and weaknesses, our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. Help us to trust that your love is wrapped around us even when we feel most frightened, most alone, most lost. Inspire us to welcome others as we have been welcomed, to comfort them as we have been comforted, to share with them the gracious hospitality that we

ourselves have received - so that all people may feel secure and at home in your Loving Presence. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Lighting the Advent Wreath

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Candle of Peace The Croyer-Westerberg Family

L: Our second Advent Candle is the Candle of Peace.

P: May the Peace of Christ come to our hearts today!

L: Our world is clouded by violence, war and strife;

P: May the light of Christ's peace shine upon our world!

L: Jesus says, "You are the light of the world!"

P: May the light of Christ shine through us, that we might be radiant signs of Divine Peace!

As the Advent Candles are lighted, we will sing the second verse of the hymn, One Candle Is Lit

Come quickly, Shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease,
One candle is lit for the Reign of God's Peace.

Time with Young Worshipers

The Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible, page 640

The New Testament

Matthew 3: 1-12

Pew Bible, page 2

The Continuing Testament
Schmeling

from *Let Us Have It!*

by Bradley

Sermon

So be Good, for Goodness Sake!

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
[verses 1 and 2]

#116

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

God of Still Waiting

Fedak

"Come in your fullness and grace;
work through our lives for your praise."
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 2000

***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**

Gracious Holy One, may these gifts help bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. Grant to each of us a sense of participation in the most important work of all: to share your love with the world. To this end, we dedicate our offerings and ourselves, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

We Hail you God's Anointed

#104

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.*

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

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Pachelbel

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Forbes Family, The Family of Vonda Ward, The Family of Nancy Foose, Doug Lightbody, Bill & Ann Toneff, 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, December 1, 2013 –Adults: 93 Kids: 18 Total: 111

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE GIVEN by Dan & Jan Renovetz in Celebration of our 55th Wedding Anniversary.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA DEC. 15: This year's Christmas cantata, *Once in Royal David's City*, will be presented next Sunday, Dec. 15 at our 10 a.m. service. The adult choir will be joined by seasonal choir members, instrumentalists and narrators to retell the ancient story of Christ's miraculous birth to the virgin Mary in a lowly stable some two thousand years ago. The work is comprised of both traditional and contemporary music. Please join us for this uplifting holiday tradition. Bring a friend!

SHARE IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OF GIVING! Our annual Christmas Adopt-a-Family project will have a new name this year: Adopt-an-Individual. We hope the whole congregation will reach out generously as they always have. Some of the items that would be appreciated are: queen-sized sheet sets (flannel or regular), blanket or two, Bedspread (non-bulky, velour-like) bath towel sets, kitchen towels, potholder (no Mitts), and dishcloths, gift cards for stores such as T J Maxx, Kohl's, Target, Dots, etc, and of course the always welcome checks to BUCC [noted "Adopt-an-Individual"], or cash with the same notation on the envelope.]

THE READINGS

The Old Testament - Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Holy One shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the reverence of God. His delight shall be in devotion to the Holy One. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea.

The New Testament - Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the Realm of Heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to

carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Continuing Testament - from *Let Us Have It!* - by Bradley Schmeling [edited]

I would love to have had John the Baptist’s job. Think of how fun it would be to have license to thunder judgment on the deserving wicked! I know something about this because I’m an oldest child; and of course, my job was to be the mighty moral force for my siblings. How satisfying it is to be the righteous one, to bear the fruit of morality and to tell those sinners to repent. The truth is that we all like to play the role of John the Baptist. Judgment makes us feel like we’re right. Being self-righteous makes us feel like we are worthy. And of course, the way that most of us know that we’re good, is by pointing out all those others who are bad.

If we’re really going to be truthful, we probably need to be honest about our eagerness to judge rather than repent; our willingness to point out the sins of the world, and our propensity to enjoy it. What’s Christmas without a little complaining about all those Christians who only come to church on Christmas Eve? What’s Christmas if not thundering about the materialism and the commercialism of the season? Preaching judgment is the easy part. Jesus, on the other hand, enters into the heart of human life and takes into himself all those things that separate us from God. His work culminates, not in self-righteous satisfaction at letting those sinners have it. It is fulfilled at the cross, when the powers of sin and separation and self-righteousness are burned off like the morning dew. It is completed on Easter morning, when all of us sinners receive Christ’s overflowing life.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 12/9/2013	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Congregation Meeting
Wednesday 12/11/2013	6 am	Early Birds
	7pm	Council
Thursday 12/12/2013	1pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7-9 pm	Cantata Practice
Saturday 12/14/2013	10-11:30 am	Cantata Rehearsal
Sunday 12/15/2013	10 am	Worship
	11 am	Coffee Hour

DECEMBER 8, 2013

LAY READER: Jim Duffy
HEAD USHER: Jon Thompson
USHERS: Joe & Betsey Wilson, Drew Wilson, Beth Oravec
ACOLYTE: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
PEACE CANDLE: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
SOUND: Max Roha
COMMONS GRTR: Betty Gifford
NARTHEX GRTR: Joanne Cook
FLOWERS: Jan Renovetz
NURSERY: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
COUNTERS: Jim Kaul, Carole Snider
SERVERS: Jim & Dottie Farwell
CLEAN-UP: Cliff Cribbs & Jan Renovetz
SNACKS: Pat Bailey & Kate Klonowski
SNOW HERDER: Cliff Cribbs

DECEMBER 15, 2013 CANTATA

LAY READER:
HEAD USHER: Max Roha
USHERS: Matt Wolberg, Sam Koch, Sue Maier, David Ritchey
ACOLYTE: Naomi Klonowski
PEACE CANDLE: Arthur Oravec
SOUND: Chad Sproul
COMMONS GRTR: Ann Kelly
NARTHEX GRTR: Dorie Gabor
FLOWERS: POINSETTIAS
NURSERY: Shauna Bigelow
COUNTERS: Bruce McCain, Anna Mary Fisher
SERVERS: Sue Stenzel & Dottie Farwell