

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

JANUARY 5, 2014 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Meditation Music

As words of a familiar advent hymn echo in our minds, “Come thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free,” may we be inspired by the lives of those of every generation, who have sought the truth and shown light on the path to freedom, human dignity, reconciliation and peace. Amen.

Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

How beautifully shines the morning star

Buxtehude

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

L: Creative Holy One, with the dawning of each new day you reveal yourself to us again.

P: Show us how to recognize you:

L: In the falling snow and in the warmth of the sun,

P: In our neighbors, friends, and families,

L: In the poor, the unemployed, the victims of war and violence,

P: In the sorrows and joys of life; in the fears and hopes of all people.

L: Help us respond to you at all times and in all places,

P: In the close and familiar, and in the foreign and new.

L: Open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear your call, and our hearts to welcome you gladly.

All: Shine your light upon us and show us the way!

*** Hymn of Praise**

As with Gladness Those of Old

#159

*** Prayer of Confession [Unison]**

Sometimes we respond to you, O God, as we would to a sudden bright light: surprise, a little uncertain, yet drawn to see where it leads. The light of your love draws us to Jesus Christ and the way of life we find in him. Yet we sometimes turn from your light, nervous of the unknown, uncertain of where you might lead us, afraid of what we might see in ourselves. And in turning away, we no longer see your light. Forgive us, Gracious God, and give us the courage to come again to the light of your love and to faithfully follow you.

L: God's love shines always, beckons us always, forgives us always. As God's forgiven people, we see things in a new light, and new life is ours once more.

All: Thanks be to God!

*** Passing the Peace**

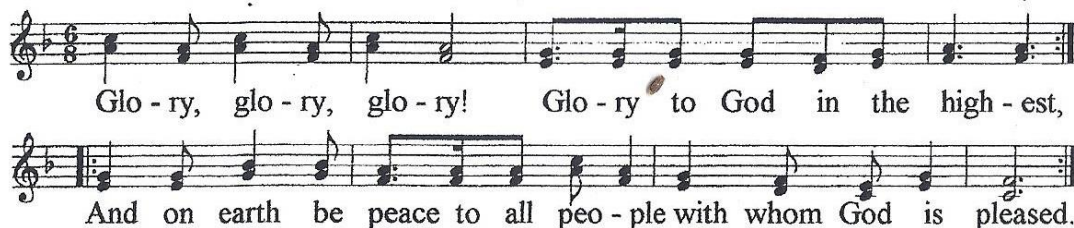
L: As people of the Light, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you all!

P: And also with you!

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



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 his 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 him 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 him that he may be inspired to know and follow Jesus Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to grow with him in the Christian faith, to help him be a faithful member of the Church - by celebrating Christ's presence here, by furthering Christ's mission in the world, and by offering him 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 Arthur as he grows in faith among us?

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

The Baptism and Welcoming

The Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible, page 690

The New Testament

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible, page 2

The Continuing Testament

from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

by Ann Weems

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

The Three Kings
[Jon Thompson, bass]

Cornelius

Sermon

Are you a Wise Guy, or Gal?

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Be Now My Vision

#451

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

Brightest and Best

Southern Harmony, 1835

"Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would we favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor."
Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.

***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, may these gifts 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 Light and our Savior. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Nocturne Op. 48, No. 2

Chopin

The Thanksgiving

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: Our hearts rejoice in God's presence!

L: Let us give thanks for God's Holy Love!

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

L: It is truly good and right to give thanks to you, O God of Light and Love. You have called us from the east and the west, the north and the south, to gather at the new dawn that Christ brings to our world. And so with your people everywhere, we praise you with joy, saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Divine Source of all blessings, we give you thanks and praise for Jesus, the Light of the World - the Light that no darkness can overcome. We thank you that you have called us to walk in your light and have nourished us for our journey with this Bread of Life. Fill us with your Spirit and guide us in your way of peace, we pray in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

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

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Family of Todd Scarce, 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 29, 2013 –Adults: 67 Kids: 10 Total: 77

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY WE WELCOME *Arthur Cook*, son of Gina and Jonathan Cook, into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. A special welcome also to Arthur's Godparents Sarah Cook and Raymond Gill, and other family and friends visiting with us on this awesome day. We ask God's continuing blessings on Natalie and her family, and on our entire BUCC Family of Faith!

BUCC MUSIC MINISTRY: The Adult Choir will resume weekly rehearsals this Thurs. Jan. 9 at 7:30-9:00 p.m. The Joyful Noise Choir (~K-5th grade) will also start meeting again for practice on Thurs. from 5:30-6:15 p.m. First rehearsal for percussion group will be Sunday Jan. 19 at 5:30-6:00 p.m. before Youth Ministry at 6. Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble will break for Jan.

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.

FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may have been in recovery for addiction.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for 2014's first Membership gathering.....January 18th at 6:30 PM. in Pilgrim Hall join us for a card party. Bring your favorite card games and a snack to share. Membership will provide the hot chocolate.

FROM FINANCE please be sure to date your checks 2014. Also, please be sure to pick up your Pillar to help save the cost of mailing. Thank you.

A SINCERE THANK YOU for all that asked about or purchased from Threads of Hope. Courtnei was able to collect over \$50 for the Charity, and explain their Mission. We hope that you like your unique creation. She appreciates everyone's interest! – The Begans

RECORDING OF SUNDAY WORSHIP has resumed - now on audio CDs using newly installed sound equipment. If you missed a service or just want to hear again a sermon, an anthem or whatever, please check with the church office to borrow the CD.

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.

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.

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 READINGS

The Old Testament - Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Holy One has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Holy One will arise upon you, and Divine glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Holy One.

The New Testament - Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they

saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Continuing Testament - from *Kneeling in Bethlehem* - by Ann Weems

Into this silent night
as we make our weary way
we know not where,
just when the night becomes its darkest
and we cannot see our path,
just then
is when angels rush in,
their hands full of stars.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 1/5/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11am	Coffee Hour
Monday 1/6/2014	7 pm	Spiritual Life
Tuesday 1/7/2014	7pm	Membership
Wednesday 1/8/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	7pm	Council
Thursday 1/9/2014	1pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday 1/12/2014	10 am	Worship
	11 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 5, 2014

Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Head Usher: Bridget Sproul
Ushers: Carole & George Snider, Chad
Sproul, Diane Gressley
Acolyte: Benjamin Davis
Peace Cndl: Michalina Fawcett
Sound: Val Duffy
Commons: David Pastor
Narthex: Linda Kriynovich
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Nancy Stella, Anna Mary
Fisher
Servers: Joy Garapic, Joanne Cook
Clean Up: Jan Renovetz, Jon Thompson
Snacks: Melissa Lund, Tia Began
Snow Herder: Billy Harris

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 12, 2014

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Sue Maier, Joanne Cook,
Dan Stewart, Fred Pesek
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Cndl: Drew Demko
Sound: Max Roha, Doug Fawcett
Commons: Ann Kelley
Narthex: Betty Gifford
Flowers: Kathy Lander
Nursery: Kara Rees
Counters: Bruce McCain, Sam Koch
Servers: Carole & George Snider,
Dottie Farwell
Clean Up: Kathy & Dave Pastor
Snacks: Sue Maier, Max Roha
Snow Herder: David Pastor