

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 7, 2014 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, as we hear the songs of this Season - songs of hope and love, peace and forgiveness - may we tune our hearts to your call to take action. Enliven our spirits and stir our souls, that we might offer hope and love, peace and forgiveness to all those around us. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Prepare the Way 17th century Swedish folk tune
[Assisted by Percussion Group]

“Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.”
Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847)

*** Call to Worship**

L: We come to you, O Holy One, with our concerns and our joys.

P: We gather at your Table, seeking your strength and your peace.

L: We lay our lives before you, in anticipation of your coming among us.

All: We thank you, our Divine Hope, for your gracious presence, now and always!

*** Hymn of Praise**

We Hail You God's Anointed
[verses 1 and 4]

#104

*** Prayer of Confession**

L: John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of The Divine Realm. Let us respond to that call, that we may be ready for the Holy One who comes to us.

All: Holy Source of grace, you send signs of your love to us, in and through the people around us, but we often shut those people out of our lives. We turn away from your love, sometimes when we need it the most. We deny your hope within us, and remain isolated and afraid. Forgive our foolish ways, visit us with your saving grace, and open our hearts to receive you anew.

L: God is our Light and our Hope. Arise! Shine! For the God of Peace has come to save us!

All: We are a forgiven and renewed people! Together, we will walk in the light of Divine Love and Grace!

* Passing the Peace

L: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ.

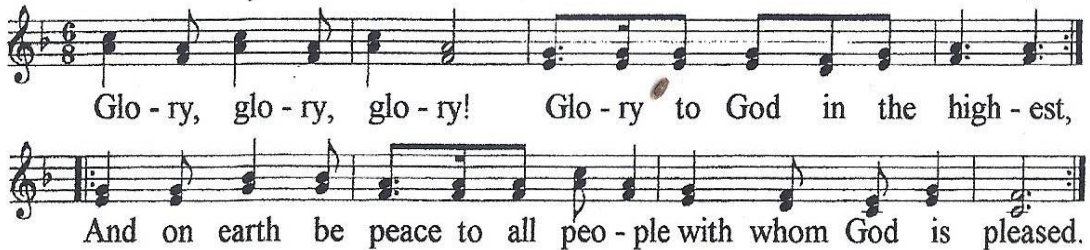
The Peace of Christ be with you all!

P: And also with you!

* The Song of Praise

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Lighting the Advent Candle

The Candle of Peace

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 in us and through us, on this day and in all our days to come!

As the Second Advent Candle is 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.

The Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1-11

Pew Bible, page 667

The New Testament

Mark 1:1-8

Pew Bible, page 34

The Continuing Testament

from *A Way Made Ready*

by David Busic

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering	A Voice Cries Out	Joncas
Sermon	<i>His Bark Is Worse Than His Bite</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
Hymn of Reflection	Come, O Long-Expected Jesus	#122

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	Contemplation	Mendelssohn
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*** Offertory Hymn**

**We praise the Babe this time of year,
Sing carols to him whom we hold dear.
Our love, His power we now proclaim,
We send our gifts in Jesus's name. Amen!**

***Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Gracious Holy One, 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 Savior. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

#342

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

People: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: Our hearts rejoice in our Creator's Presence!

L: Let us give thanks for the Spirit's abundant love!

P: It is good to raise our thanks and praise!

L: Gracious Holy One, because you faithfully come to rescue and redeem all people, we give you thanks and praise your Holy Name, saying,

All: Holy, holy, holy, Divine Source of love and grace, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O Holy One Most High!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Communion

Vierne

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Sacred Source of Life, with joy we have received this sacrament of Bread and Cup, remembering the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unite us with your faithful people throughout the world, that together we may continue Christ's ministry of love and service, to the praise of your Holy Name. Amen.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#76

*** 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.

***Benediction****Postlude**

Hark! a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Monk

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Rudy Lorenzo, Dan Renovetz, Addy Baldwin, G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Don & Eleanor Kusa, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

Attendance Sunday, November 30, 2014 – Adults: 88 Kids: 17 Total: 105

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our Guest Book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Dan & Jan Renovetz in Celebration of their 56th Wedding Anniversary.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING! Please join us directly after worship today for our Congregational Meeting, in which we will present the proposed budget and review the slate of Ministry members for 2015.

MORE NEW OFFERTORY WORDS! Rising to Max Roha's challenge, Bill Toneff has written this verse, which we will use throughout Advent, Christmas and into the Epiphany Season:

We praise the Babe this time of year,
Sing carols to him whom we hold dear.
Our love, His power we now proclaim,
We send our gifts in Jesus's name. Amen!

Our Spiritual Life Ministry Team invites other BUCC members and friends to compose verses that we can use to help us acknowledge and sing about the many diverse aspects of our giving. Your words might be suitable for any time of year, or they might be seasonal [Christmas, Easter, Spring, Fall, etc.] Do it alone or with someone else. Have fun verbalizing your thoughts, rearranging them, playing with other word options, and finally arriving at your expression. Please submit your ideas [or questions] to Pastor Dave or Dave Debick, who will share them with our Spiritual Life Ministry members. And, voila, you soon will have found new words of thanks that will add depth to our BUCC worship experience!

HERE WE COME A'CAROLING!

On Sunday, December 14th at 2:00 pm, our youth and adults will meet at the church to go caroling to our shut-in members. This is a great opportunity to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols while bringing a special Christmas greeting to those members who cannot regularly join us for worship. We will return to the church around 4:00 to warm ourselves with some hot chocolate and other goodies. All are welcome to join us!

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY! The Community of St. Bridget, the group that worships here on Saturdays at 5 pm, will be celebrating Christmas with a service in our Sanctuary at 10 am. All BUCC members and friends are welcome to join them. St. Bridget's is a progressive and inclusive Family of Faith, who - like our family - extend Christ's welcome to the Communion Table to all who are present. Our own Kate Klonowski's mom, Ann, will be leading the worship service.

POINSETTIAS Today is the deadline to order Poinsettias for the Sanctuary. If you are interested, please fill out the order form at the back of the Bulletin, and give to Joy Garapic.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – This year's Christmas cantata is scheduled for next Sunday, December 14 at our regular morning worship. *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* will be presented by the adult choir with assistance from several seasonal choir members, instrumentalists and narrators. The cantata features works by Bach, Shaw, Herms, Schalk, Johnson and Smith, as well as music from Poland, Japan, Finland and Puerto Rico. We hope you can join us for this wonderful BUCC tradition.

GIVING TREE Thank you in advance for being a part of the village that they say it takes to raise a child and sharing your Holiday Spirit with the students at Prentiss Autism Center. This time of year can truly be a struggle for our students and their families due to changes in their schedule and increased issues related to supervision. Your gift serves not only as a gift for the student, but also as a reminder to the family that someone is thinking about them. Santa will be paying a visit to Prentiss the week of December 15th, so ideally if the gifts could be returned by December 14th, with the ornament attached, that would be great. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank You! – Darlene (440)856-3897

THE MITTEN TREE needs Mittens, hats, scarves, socks to decorate n the Narthex.

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedule in the office calendar. This is used to list your dates and times in both the ***Weekly Bulletin*** and in the monthly ***Pillar***.

BUCC ONLINE CALENDAR Please be sure to check day to day meeting schedules, events, and doings at BUCC at www.BrecksvilleUcc.org. Updates are made frequently.

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY NEEDS Canned Fruit & Vegetables

The Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people, says the Holy One. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Holy One's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made

low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.”

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Holy One comes with might, and strength to rule; the Holy One brings reward and recompense. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead them home.

The New Testament - Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to John, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Continuing Testament - from *A Way Made Ready* - by David Busic [edited]

The Christmas season finds us expending tremendous amounts of energy, time, and resources for the task of preparation. There are gifts to be bought, wrapped, and placed under the tree. We have to find a new outfit for the company party, memorize our lines for the Christmas program, and organize the gift-exchange scheme for the extended family. There is baking to be done, cleaning to be done, and Christmas cards to be composed and mailed before it’s too late. We find our lives hectic and hurried, all in the name of preparation

for the celebration of Christmas. Yet when we hold our efforts up to the Scriptures, we become aware how misdirected we are.

Arms filled with decorative distractions, hands holding meaningless idols, and lives preoccupied with scurrying self-survival, must be emptied before they can embrace the newness of God's saving action in Jesus Christ. The critical step taken by the people of Judea, is baptism in the Jordan River. There, they expunge their old ways, by being plunged into a new beginning through the surrender of Baptism. Likewise, our response to the One who comes to save us, moves beyond simply "turning away." We "turn toward" as well. Turn toward a welcoming Savior, and dive into His Life and His Way of compassion and peace.

Opportunities for The Week

Sunday 12/7/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Congregational Meeting/Coffee Hour
	5-6 pm	Cantata Rehearsal Practice
Wed 12/10/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	No Recorder/Dulcimer	
	7 pm	Council
Thurs 12/11/2014	1 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Pageant Music Practice
	7-9 pm	Cantata Rehearsal
Saturday 12/13/14	10 am	Cantata Rehearsal Practice
	12 pm	Cantata at Chippewa Place
Sunday 12/14/2014	10 am	Worship Service/Cantata
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	2 pm	Caroling/Youth Ministry

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE
DECEMBER 7, 2014

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Linda Kriynovich, Fred
Pesek
Acolyte: Briana Brown
Peace Cndl: Lucy Brown
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Narx Grtr: Joanne Cook
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Nancy Stella, Jim Duffy
Servers: Carole Snider Robin Coyer-
Westerberg
Clean Up: Geroge Snider, Jill Zedan
Snacks: Sue Maier, Diane Gressley
Snow Hrdr: Doug Fawcett

PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
DECEMBER 14, 2014

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Tina Ortiz, Ed Lusk
Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Cndl: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Comns Grtr: George Snider
Nartx Grtr: Carole Snider
Flowers: Poinsettias
Nursery: Gina or Jon Cook
Counters: Dassie Matsuoka, Bruce McCain
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Dottie Farwell
Clean-Up: David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks: Receptions
Snow Hrdr: Matt Wolbert