

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 4, 2015 – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Meditation Music

God of history and of our everyday lives, we pray that you will overcome our fears and use our lives and our voices to proclaim a new day, a day of justice, compassion, and love.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Fughetta on “How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

Seelmann

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Life of Christ

Call to Worship

L: Human Jesus,

P: We bring our humble offerings.

L: Divine Jesus,

P: We try to be our best for you.

L: Jesus of those times and these times,

P: Show yourself to us in your word, in communion, in one another!

L: Make our gifts worthy

All: And grateful for those we receive!

Hymn of Praise

As with Gladness Those of Old

#159

Prayer of Confession [Unison]

Good and Gracious God, You have blessed us with every good thing. Sometimes we don't take your gifts seriously and fail to use them well. You ask us to exercise the gifts and sometimes we refuse you, or to share them with one another and we ignore you. Once again we ask your forgiveness for our lack of care and hard hearts. Thank you for showing us again how to use our gifts for the good of your people. Trusting in your endless generosity, we thank you for inviting us to communion with you and one another. Amen.

***The Assurance of Pardon**

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 Jesus calls us to forgiveness and renewed relationship, let us offer a sign of Christ's peace to one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all!

P: And also with you!

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,
And on earth be peace to all peo - ple with whom God is pleased.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

New Testament

Matthew 2:1-12

Continuing Testament

John Shea, *Starlight: Beholding the Christmas Miracle All Year Long*

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

How Great Thou Art Trad. Swedish folk tune, adapt. Hine
[Don Seager, bass]

Sermon

The Gift of the Magi

Rev. Ann P. Klonowski

Hymn of Reflection

All Beautiful the March of Days

#434

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Holst

“What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.”

Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.

English trans. By Marguerite Vogels-Reiners

*** 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]**

**Good and gracious God, the gifts we have offered here today are so small. They
can never measure up to your great gifts to us. But that is not what you call us to.
You call us to use the gifts you have given us and to share them with one another.
Then your divine self will be visible in this world and your reign of love will fill
the world. Thank you for your gifts to us. Thank you for inviting us to build your
reign in these days with these people. Amen**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#345, vs. 1 & 2

Thanksgiving

L: God is with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to our God.

L: Let us give thanks to our loving God.

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

L: All loving and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus the Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy God, Spirit of Love and Peace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian carol, adapt. Niles

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Dear Jesus, the star led the Magi to you. May that star still guide us as we find you in this Bread and Cup, as we find you in your Word, and as we find you in the faces of the people you put in our lives. May our gift to you be a deep realization of your gifts to us, given to us to be put at the service of the world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The first staff has chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E above it. The second staff has chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A above it.

*Benediction

Postlude

Jubilate Deo (O be joyful in God)

Berthier (Taizé Community)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Cheryl Speith, 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, December 28, 2014 – Adults: 60 Kids: 12 Total: 72

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 in Honor of Tia & Joe Began's upcoming Anniversary this week.

BUCC MUSIC MINISTRY: Adult Choir will resume weekly practices this Thursday Jan. 8 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The Joyful Noise Choir will begin rehearsing again this Thurs. from

5:30-6:15. Our Percussion Group's first practice of 2015 will be Sunday Jan. 11 at 5:30 before Youth Ministry from 6-7:30. Piano lessons start up again this Wed. & Thursday afternoons. Recorder/dulcimer ensemble takes a break during Jan. because of vacationing members.

FINANCE "Be sure to date your checks 2015. If you have not already, also pick up your 2015 pledge envelopes. If you would like envelopes, please see Joy Garapic."

HELP NEEDED Advent will be over by Sunday, January 10th. Therefore the Christmas tree in the sanctuary needs to be removed and help is needed with this project. With enough help after the church service this morning it won't take very long.

JANUARY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS Canned Fruit & Vegetables

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 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.

THE PEACE CANDLE is placed up front every Sunday to remind us of Jesus' teachings on peace and peacemakers. We pray that peace between nations, within our country, community, families, and ourselves will become a priority for all.

The Readings

The Old Testament – Is 60:1-6 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Arise, shine, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of our God is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth,
and darkness the peoples.
Above you Our God now rises

and God's glory now appears on you.
The nations come to your light,
and the leaders to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
all are assembling and coming toward you:
your daughters and your sons journey from afar.

At this sight, you will grow radiant,
your heart will thrill and rejoice;
the riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of nations will come to you.
Camels in throngs will cover you,
the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah.
Everyone in Sheba will come
bringing gold and incense,
and singing the praise of our God.

The New Testament – Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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

O. Henry's "Gift of the Magi" is a story about a couple named Jim and Della. Although they are poor, they each have a proud possession. Della has beautiful long hair and Jim has "The Watch." As Christmas nears, Della cuts her hair, sells it, and buys Jim a "platinum fob chain" for his watch. When she gives it to him, Jim reveals that he has sold his watch and bought her a set of "pure tortoise shell" combs for her hair.

This story ends twice, both times with the same message. When Jim realizes what has happened, he plopped "down on the couch and put his hand under the back of his head and smiled." He tells Della the irony and ends with, "And now suppose you put the chops on." The smile and the comic return to the need for food reveal they both know what O. Henry makes explicit in the second ending. "Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are the wisest." They are wise because they have both received something absolutely useless on the "level of flesh" and absolutely priceless on the "level of spirit." Paradoxically, they have each received the perfect gift, both of them know and are known, love and are loved. They have received the gift of the Magi.

John Shea, *Starlight: Beholding the Christmas Miracle All Year Long*

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 4, 2015

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Beth Rehling, Heidi Spangler
Carole & George Snider
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Cdl: Evan Merritt
Sound: Dave Bernard
Comns Grtr: Chad Sproul
Nartx Grtr: Bridget Sproul
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Shauna Bigelow
Counters: Nancy Stella, Anna Mary Fisher
Server: Joy Garapic, Joanne Cook
Clean Up: Kathy & David Pastor
Snacks: Marla Corrado, Beth Rehling
Snow Hrdr: Jim Farwell

PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 11, 2015

Lay Reader: Tia Began
Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Lindsey Maier, Sue Maier
Wes & Eve Novak
Acolyte: Courtni Began
Peace Cndl: Carli Began
Sound: Val Duffy
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr: Jon Thompson
Flowers:
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Carole Snider, Donn Whyte
Servers: Dottie Farwell, Vicki Szabo
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Tina Ortiz & Peg Duffy
Snow Hrdr: Cliff Cribbs