



## **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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## DECEMBER 28, 2014 – FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

### **Meditation Music**

Alleluia! We commemorate once again the arrival of Jesus Christ into the world created eons before by the Almighty One – Love begotten of Infinite Love, born an innocent, helpless child to the Virgin Mary and Joseph in a lowly manger in Bethlehem. Be born again in our hearts, Christ Jesus, during this glorious season of light, joy and hope.

### ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

#### **Prelude**

Whence is that Goodly Fragrance

Traditional French carol

“Bethlehem! There in manger lying  
Find your Redeemer, haste away!  
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing!  
Worship the Saviour born today!”

#### **Call to Worship (from Isaiah Chapter 9)**

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**P: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.**

L: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;

**P: And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

L: His authority shall grow continually,

**P: And there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.**

L: He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

**P: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

#### **Hymn of Praise**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#126

#### **Prayer of Invocation [unison]**

**O Divine Creator, Eternal Source of all that has been, is now, and ever shall be, we thank you for sending us your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to show us how to dedicate our lives more fully to you. As Son of God and Son of Humankind, he shared in our joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments. Yet his heart remained uncorrupted, pure, ever-compassionate. He taught us a deeper, more authentic way to live – a way rooted in humility, mutual respect, understanding,**

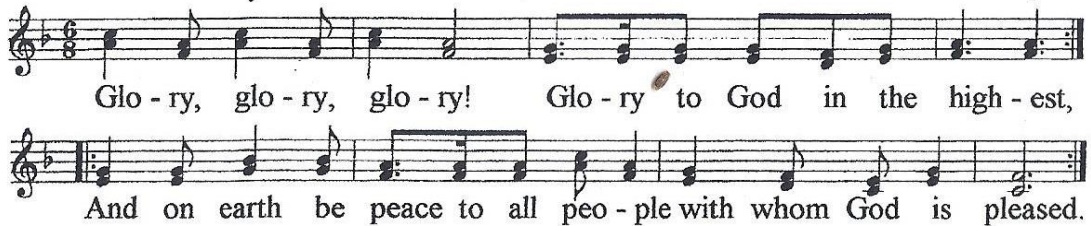
peace, joy, faith, and abiding love. We are inspired and transformed by his extraordinary example. Be with us during this wondrous season of Christmas. Fill our souls with the grace of your Holy Spirit, so that we may become ever finer witnesses to your Truth and Goodness. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and brother. Amen.

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**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**Old Testament**

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

**New Testament**

**Luke 2:22-40**

**Continuing Testament – From a letter by Dietrich Bonhoeffer to the Finkenwalde Brothers, Christmas 1939.**

**Time with Young Worshipers**

***On the Mystery of the Incarnation***, a poem by Denise Levertov (1923-1997)

**Musical Offering I** It Came upon the Midnight Clear English melody, adapt. Sullivan  
Anne Melfo, soprano; Dave Debick, baritone (no brackets necessary)

***Nativity***, a poem by Joseph Brodsky (1940-1996)

**Musical Offering II** Joseph's Song (Joseph, a Witness) Michael Card  
Jon Thompson, bass

**From *The Holy Child's Song***, a poem by Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

**Musical Offering III** In the Manger Dave Clark, arr. Kirkland  
Darlene Fatica, soprano

# ***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**

From Heaven unto Earth I Come

16<sup>th</sup> century German carol

"My heart for very joy now leaps; my voice no longer silence keeps;  
I too must join the angel throng to sing this joyous cradle song."  
Martin Luther, c. 1535; trans. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

### **\* 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]**

**Almighty God, accept and bless these gifts we offer now to help spread your  
Good News throughout the world. During this sacred Christmas season, enkindle  
in us the fire of your Spirit. Help us shine forth your compassion and gentleness  
to all we meet. Where there is darkness, let us bring light; where there's sadness,  
joy; where there's mistrust, understanding and patience; where there's injury,  
pardon. May we become worthy incarnations of your Gospel message in today's**

troubled world. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Lord of heaven and earth. Amen.

## Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#144

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.



### \*Benediction

Postlude

Carol of the Drum

K. Kennicott Davis

## 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 21, 2014 – Adults: 124 Kids: 24 Total: 148

## ***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.

**THE MEALS ON WHEELS** program in North Royalton is looking for volunteer drivers. They would only drive once a week at lunch time with the same day and route. Delivery would be only to North Royalton area residents. For more information please call Diane Krafft at 237-7958 ext 234.

**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***

### **Old Testament – Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for the Almighty has clothed me with the garments of salvation, God has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so our Sovereign God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The

nations shall see your vindication, and all rulers your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of God will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Almighty One, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **New Testament – Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

### **Continuing Testament – From a letter by Dietrich Bonhoeffer to the Finkenwalde Brothers, Christmas 1939.**

No priest, no theologian stood at the cradle in Bethlehem. And yet all Christian theology has its origin in the wonder of all wonders, that God became man... *Theologia sacra* (sacred theology) arises from those on bended knees who do homage to the mystery of the divine child in the stall... God revealed in the flesh, the God-man Jesus Christ, is the holy mystery which theology is appointed to guard. What a mistake to think that it is the task of theology to unravel God’s mystery, to bring it down to the flat, ordinary human wisdom of experience and reason! It is the task of theology solely to preserve God’s wonder as wonder, to understand, to defend, to glorify God’s mystery as mystery... The Christology of the ancient



church really arose at the cradle of Bethlehem, and the brightness of Christmas lies on its weather-beaten face. Even today, it wins the hearts of all who come to know it. So at Christmas time we should again go to school with the ancient church and seek to understand in worship what it thought and taught, to glorify and to defend belief in Christ. The hard concepts of that time are like stones from which one strikes fire.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

|                          |   |                 |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Sunday 12/28/2014</b> | 10 am                                   | Worship Service |
|                          | 11 am                                   | Coffee Hour     |
| <b>Wed 12/31/2014</b>    | 6 am                                    | Early Birds     |
| <b>Thurs 1/1/2015</b>    | <b>*HAPPY NEW YEAR* *Office Closed*</b> |                 |
| <b>Saturday 1/3/2015</b> | 9 am                                    | Facilities      |
| <b>Sunday 1/4//2015</b>  | 10 am                                   | Worship Service |
|                          | 11 am                                   | Coffee Hour     |

### **PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

#### **DECEMBER 28, 2014**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Lay Reader:</b>   | <b>Sue Stenzel</b>   |
| <b>Head Usher:</b>   | <b>Diane Gressley</b>  |
| <b>Ushers:</b>       | <b>Drew Wilson, Lindsey Maier<br/>Kathy &amp; David Pastor</b> |
| <b>Acolyte:</b>      | <b>Ben Davis</b>   |
| <b>Peace Cndl:</b>   | <b>Garrett Demko</b>   |
| <b>Sound:</b>        | <b>Doug Fawcett</b>  |
| <b>Comms Grtr:</b>   | <b>Bridget Sproul</b>  |
| <b>Narthex Grtr:</b> | <b>Lenore Harris</b>   |
| <b>Flowers:</b>      | <b>Jan Renovetz</b>  |
| <b>Nursery:</b>      | <b>Peg Duffy</b>   |
| <b>Counters:</b>     | <b>David Pastor, Dassi Matsuka</b>                             |
| <b>Servers:</b>      | <b>Caroline Chandler, Joy Garapic</b>                          |
| <b>Clean-Up:</b>     | <b>Anne Melfo Doug Fawcett &amp; Family,<br/>Jan Renovetz</b>  |
| <b>Snacks:</b>       | <b>Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz</b>                            |
| <b>Snow Hrdr:</b>    | <b>Chad Sproul</b>   |

**PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**JANUARY 4, 2015**

**Lay Reader:** David Ritchey  
**Head Usher:** Caroline Chandler  
**Ushers:** Beth Rheling, Heidi Spangler  
Carole & George Snider  
**Acolyte:** Michalina Fawcett  
**Peace Cdl:** Evan Merritt  
**Sound:** Dave Bernard  
**Comms Grtr:** Chad Sproul  
**Nartx Grtr:** Bridget Sproul  
**Flowers:**  
**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



**2014 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

Anonymous

*In Memory of the Lost but Not Forgotten.*

Julie Bernard &  
Linda Kriynovich

*In Memory of Tony, Julie & Lori Gorenc.*

Bob & Caroline  
Chandler

*In Memory of Lucille Collison, Ruth Rice & others – Gone but Not Forgotten.*

Joanne Cook

*In Memory of my Husband Skip, Parents, and Twin Sister Jeanne.*

Jane & Cliff  
Cribbs

*In Memory of Loved Ones.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <u>Jeanne Cowden</u>                   | <i>In Memory of Husband, Jim.</i>   |
| <u>Marjorie Culver</u>                 | <i>In Memory of my Husband Dick, and Brothers-in-Law Ron &amp; Carlton.</i>   |
| <u>Jim &amp; Peg Duffy</u>             | <i>Thanks to the Light that Alex, Indy, Evy, and Bash bring to our Family.</i>                                      |
| <u>Dottie &amp; Jim Farwell</u>        | <i>In Memory and Honor of our Parents.</i>  |
| <u>Anna Mary Fisher</u>                | <i>In Memory of my Sister Dorothy and her Husband Jack.</i>   |
| <u>Dorie Gabor</u>                     | <i>In Memory of my Husband, Steven Gabor, my Parents, and Siblings.</i>   |
| <u>Joy Garapic</u>                     | <i>In Memory of William Garapic, Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather.</i>   |
| <u>Diane Gressley</u>                  | <i>In Memory of Emma &amp; Evan Gressley.</i>   |
| <u>Phyllis Hassler</u>                 | <i>In Memory of Frank Hassler.</i>  |
| <u>Diane Lightbody</u>                 | <i>In Honor of the Duda and Lightbody Family – here, and in their Heavenly Home.</i>                                |
| <u>Dassie Matsuoka &amp; Daughters</u> | <i>In Memory of James Matsuoka.</i>   |
| <u>Anne Melfo &amp; Doug Fawcett</u>   | <i>In Honor of Family &amp; Friends we will miss this year.</i>   |
| <u>Phyllis Molnar</u>                  | <i>In Memory of George &amp; Bertha Ulsenheimer, my Parents, and Edward Molnar, Husband.</i>                        |
| <u>Novak Family</u>                    | <i>In Memory of Wesley Novak, Pamela Novak, Jason Copp, and all of those who live on in our Hearts &amp; Minds.</i> |
| <u>Bettina Ortiz</u>                   | <i>In Loving Memory of Betty, Joseph, &amp; Timothy</i>   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>Fred &amp; Connie</u><br><u>Pesek</u>    | <i>In Memory of our Parents.</i>   |
| <u>Eric Rahnenfuehrer</u>                   | <i>In Honor of Jan &amp; Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer.</i>   |
| <u>Max Roha</u>                             | <i>In Loving Memory David J. Roha, Mary C. Roha, and Lois L. Wallin.</i>   |
| <u>Miriam R.</u><br><u>Rosewicz</u>         | <i>In Memory of Family Members, and Loved Ones.</i>  |
| <u>George &amp; Carole</u><br><u>Snider</u> | <i>In Memory of our good Friend and Lovely Person, Debbie Busta.</i>   |
| <u>Vicki Szabo</u>                          | <i>In Loving Memory of Vic Szabo.</i>  |
| <u>Jon K. Thompson</u>                      | <i>In Memory of my Family, Gone but not Forgotten.</i>   |
| <u>Bill &amp; Anne Toneff</u>               | <i>In Memory of Elizabeth &amp; C.C. Thornton, and Vera &amp; Milan Toneff</i>   |
| <u>Donn Whyte</u>                           | <i>In Memory of Wayne Whyte.</i>   |
| <u>The Joe Wilson</u><br><u>Family</u>      | <i>In Memory of Norinne F. Brownlow, and John M. Brownlow, Sr.<br/>&amp; Randall P. Trefzger.</i>  |
| <u>Bill &amp; Sherrill Witt</u>             | <i>In Honor of Shirley Duncan &amp; the Late Arch Duncan. In Memory of<br/>Bill &amp; Mary Witt. In Memory of Jane R. Witt. In Memory of the Peart<br/>&amp; Bishop Families. In Honor of all the Members of BUCC.</i> |
| <u>Jill Zedan</u>                           | <i>For all those whose hearts are struggling this Christmas Season.</i>  |