

## **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)**

## FEBRUARY 8, 2015 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### **Meditation Music**

Our Heavenly Father/Mother, thank you for instilling within us the desire and capacity to live in caring community. May we gladly follow Jesus' own example and take sufficient time to be fully present with one another, and with You! Amen!

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

#### **Prelude**

Praise God for This Holy Ground

Bell

“Praise God for this holy ground,  
place and people, sight and sound.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God's goodness is eternal.”  
John L. Bell, 2002

#### **Bearing the Light of Peace**

#### **Bearing the Life of Christ**

#### **\* Call to Worship**

***A New Creed***

#887

#### **\* Hymn of Praise**

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

#73

#### **\* Prayer of Invocation** [Unison]

**Creative Holy One, we give thanks for all your good gifts that fill our lives with joy: the love of family and friends; the comfort of our homes, meaningful work, and relaxing leisure. We thank you for this Church home and for all the blessings that we experience here. Open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts, that we may live our lives with genuine thankfulness and joy. This we pray in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

#### **Youth Anthem**

Liberate Us, God                      Dyani (So. Africa/Xhosa)  
[Joyful Noise Choir with Youth Percussion Group]

#### **Time with Young Worshipers**

## ***Reception of New Members***

Friends in Christ, the fact that we are here today indicates that our Loving Creator is at work in our lives, and that we have a desire to better understand how our Holy Source is calling us to live. We find strength and support to interpret this calling, and to act accordingly, by connecting with this community of faith. Today, we rejoice that our faith journeys have brought us to this time and place. We give thanks that the Holy Spirit has led us to Brecksville United Church of Christ; and that on this day we can welcome others who desire to officially claim and celebrate this Family of Faith as their own.

### **Questions to our new members**

I ask you:

Do you desire to affirm your faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Do you promise to show your dedication to Christ, by showing love and compassion to others?

Do you promise to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the Church, by celebrating Christ's presence here and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

### **\*Affirming our BUCC Covenant of Membership** [in unison]

**Believing in God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, we dedicate ourselves and our church to the service of God's Realm. Depending as did our fathers and mothers upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in truth, we covenant with God and with one another to worship, work, and serve together, that we may express through our church and our lives, the love and faith of Jesus Christ.**

### **\*Words of Welcome**

Let us, the members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ, express our welcome to these new members and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**P: With joy we welcome you into the life of this congregation. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and work of the Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in Divine knowledge and love, and be faithful witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ!**

### **\*Prayer**

L: Let us pray together:

**All: Gracious Holy One, we are grateful that you have called us to faith and have welcomed us into the Church, the Body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this place, and the opportunities we have to build-up one another in**

love. May your compassion - and our own - continue to flow within this faith community, and throughout the world! Amen.

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: Let us now greet our new members and one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you!

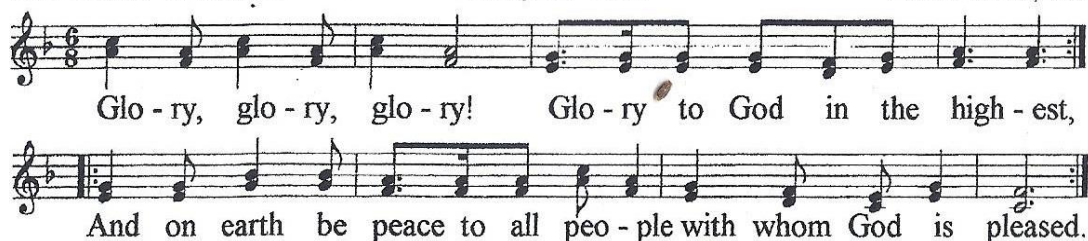
P: And also with you!

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### \* The Song of Praise

### Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**The Old Testament**

Psalm 147:1-11

Pew Bible, page 582

**The New Testament**

Matthew 7:1-5; 24-29

Pew Bible, page 6

**The Continuing Testament** from *The Politics of Church Survival*

by Timothy Simpson

**Musical Offering**

Building Up the Kingdom

M.R. Holland II

**Sermon**

“...and See All the People!”

Pastor Dave Shackle

**Hymn of Reflection**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

#306

## ***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

Petit Offertoire

Franck

#### \*Offertory Hymn

Winter has come, its taken hold.  
The days are short, the nights are cold.  
The poor need food and light and heat.  
We send our gifts, their needs to meet. Amen

#### \* Prayer of Dedication [Unison]

Gracious Holy One, we are grateful for beauty, for wisdom, for joy, for the ways in which we see your glory in all Creation. Most of all, we thank you for caring for us and for entrusting to us the ministry of caring for the earth and for one another. May these offering help promote faith in you and honor to your name, our Creator, our Savior, and our Sustaining Spirit. Amen.

### *Going with God's Love*

#### \* Hymn of Departure

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

#383

#### 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

Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being!

Parry

## PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The Family of Nancy Allenson, Cheryl Speith, Rudy Lorenzo, Dan Renovetz, Addy Baldwin, G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Don & Eleanor Kusa, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, 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, February 1, 2015 – Adults: 75 Kids: 16 Total: 91

## BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME INTO BUCC MEMBERSHIP TODAY** Rachel Brown and her daughters Briana and Lucy, Dorothy [Dottie] Faust, Justin Smith, Kim Dessofoy and Tim Wallis [who are engaged to be married in December!] May God continue to bless our newest members and all of us celebrating with them here today!

**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.

**WE WELCOME 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 are also available from ushers for children.

**THIS YEAR'S LENTEN STUDY, *THE ABC'S OF OUR FAITH*** will be held on Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 pm in Pilgrim Hall, beginning February 24<sup>th</sup>. We will look at some of the basic teachings and practices of Christianity, consider how they have evolved throughout the years, and share our thoughts about their meaning and relevance for our lives today. In our first session, we will deal with the simple [or not so simple] idea of Lent itself, and look at the entire Church Year. For those new to the Faith, when we talk about Epiphany, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Pentecost, etc. it can sound like a foreign language. And for longtime members, our familiarity with these terms can make them easy to skip-over without much thought. In this study we will try to discover, or rediscover, the purpose and power of some of the fundamental components of Christianity. We will also share our questions, insights, and personal experiences that help make our Faith - and our lives - interesting, challenging and meaningful!

In addition to the topics listed here, we will also take time to discuss other areas of our Faith that are important to those who attend. Each week's session "stands alone" so feel free to participate in as many or as few as your schedule permits.

**February 24 - The Church Year**

**March 3 - The Bible**

**March 10 - The Gospel**

**March 17 - The Christ, Jesus**

**March 24 - The Sacraments**

**FREE CONCERT** On Sunday March 1 at 4:00 pm, BUCC will host the **Baldwin Wallace Brass Choir** as part of our free concert series. Under the direction of John Brndiar, the ensemble will perform works by Hindemith, Reynolds, Nelhybel, Lendvay and others. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program. We hope you can join us on March 1<sup>st</sup> for a first-rate program of brass music.

**ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22ND**, at 11:45, our BUCC Family will take some time to remember and celebrate Nancy's life among us. Members of her beloved BUCC Choir will sing, we will have a few brief readings, and people will have the opportunity to share some of their memories and stories of Nancy. Please continue to keep Nancy's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

**MORE NEW OFFERTORY WORDS!** Our Spiritual Life Ministry Team realized that the words we had been singing as we present our offerings, said little about our giving. Max Roha, who came up with the idea, gave us our first set of words. Bill Toneff then rose to the challenge and penned the words we used in Advent through Christmas. Today, we're

introducing another one that Max wrote for the Winter months. Now we would like your contributions for additional options! You don't need to be a trained musician nor an accomplished poet. Just put your feelings into wording that reflects your own expressions of our Sunday morning offering. They could be suitable for any time of year, or they might be seasonal [Christmas, Easter, Spring, Fall, etc.] 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 will have found new words of praise that will add depth to our BUCC worship experience!

**MARDI GRAS IS COMING!** Get ready for a little New Orleans style celebration before we enter the solemn time of Lent. On February 15th, get out your beads, boas, or whatever makes you feel festive as we turn BUCC into the French Quarter. New Orleans jazz will have you tapping your feet as part of this uplifting and positive message service. As they say down on Bourbon Street - Laissez les bons temps rouler!

**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.

**FEBRUARY – CRAFT CUPBOARD NEEDS** - School Supplies, Pencils, Paper, Glue, Crayons, etc

**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** - Psalm 147:1-11

Praise the Holy One! How good it is to sing praise to God, who is gracious - to raise a suitable song of praise! The Holy One builds-up Jerusalem, and gathers the outcasts of Israel. The Gracious One heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. Our Holy Creator determines the number of the stars, and knows them all. Great is the Sovereign One, whose power is abundant and whose understanding is beyond measure.



The Holy One lifts up the downtrodden, and casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the Holy One with thanksgiving; make melody to God on the harp. The Holy One covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, and makes grass grow on the hills. The Divine Source of all living things gives to the animals their food, and provides for the young birds when they cry. God's delight is not in the strength of the warhorse, nor in the speed of the runner. The Holy One takes pleasure in those who show reverence, and in those who hope and trust God's steadfast love.

### **The New Testament** - Matthew 7:1-5; 24-29

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye...."

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise person who built a house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish person who built a house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell - and great was its fall!" Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

### **The Continuing Testament** - from *The Politics of Church Survival* - by Timothy Simpson [edited]

I have sat through countless children's sermons in which the presenter asks the kids, "Do you know what the Church is?" Invariably, little Johnny or Susie will pipe up and say, "The building!" Whereupon all the adults will smile knowingly at the trap into which the little tyke has fallen. "No" the presenter replies, "the Church is all of us!" Whereupon the adults will smile knowingly. As I see it, however, the biggest challenge on this front facing us today is not the children confusing the Church for the building, but rather the adults confusing the Church with the institution.

So much of the Church's energy these days is directed, unhelpfully, into institutional survival. It's a normal response towards any transgenerational undertaking: nobody wants the Church

to fold on our watch! But what we are actually witnessing is the folding of administrative structures, of buildings, of staffing arrangements, and financial surpluses. None of that is the Church. They've been nice accouterments that have helped the Church do its work, but they were always add-ons, side dishes, non-essential elements that perhaps made life easier and more manageable, but nothing more.... The true source of the Church's life and strength is Jesus Christ, the son of the Living God.... It is in him that we find our strength, our unity, our community and - most importantly - our future.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday 2/8/2015</b>	10 am	Worship Service – New Members
	11 am	Stewardship - Parlor
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	6 pm	Youth Ministry
<b>Monday 2/9/2015</b>	7 pm	Spiritual Life
<b>Tuesday 2/10/2015</b>	10-11:30	CWRU
<b>Wed 2/11/2015</b>	6 am	Early Birds
	7 pm	Council
<b>Thurs 2/12/2015</b>	1 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
<b>Sunday 2/15/2015</b>	10 am	Worship Service
	*ONA Free	Will Offering*
	11 am	Mardi Gras Reception
	6 pm	Youth Ministry

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2015**

**Lay Reader:** Cliff Cribbs  
**Head Usher:** Evie Novak  
**Ushers:** Heidi Spangler, Fred Pesek  
Linda Kriynovich, Tina Ortiz  
**Acolyte:** Briana Brown  
**Peace Cndl:** Lucy Brown  
**Sound:** Doug Fawcett  
**Comns Grtr:** Carole Snider  
**Narthex Grtr:** Joanne Cook  
**Flowers:** Betty Gifford  
**Nursery:** Val Duffy  
**Counters:** Bruce McCain, Donn Whyte  
**Servers:** Robin Coyer-Westerberg, Caroline Chandler  
**Clean-Up:** Jill Zedan, Jon Thompson  
**Snacks:** Diane Gressley, Heidi Spangler  
**Snow Hrd:** Dan Stewart

## **PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2015**

**Lay Reader:** Jill Zedan  
**Head Usher:** Caroline Chandler  
**Ushers:** Dan Stewart, Andrew Wilson  
Joe & Betsey Wilson  
**Acolyte:** Jillian Davis  
**Peace Cndl:** Drew Demko  
**Sound:** Max Roha  
**Comns Grtr:** Kathy Pastor  
**Narthex Grtr:** Fred Pesek  
**Flowers:** Julie Bernard  
**Nursery:** Kara Reese  
**Counters:** Carole Snider, Jan Renovetz  
**Servers:** Dottie & Jim Farwell  
**Clean-Up:** Jane & Cliff Cribbs  
**Snacks:** Anne Melfo, Bridget Sproul  
**Snow Hrd:** Jim Farwell