

# BRECKSVILLE

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## UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

***Loving, Serving and Accepting All People  
with God's Life-Changing Power***

Holy Spirit of  
Hope and  
Peace, Life and  
Compassion,  
we rejoice that  
you chose to  
fully dwell  
among us in the  
person of Jesus  
Christ. Fill us  
with your Spirit  
today, that we  
might joyfully  
proclaim the  
Good News of  
Christ's loving  
presence  
among us every  
day! Amen!

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**Sunday December 24, 2017 • 10:00 AM**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Pastor*

• Rev David Shackle

*Director of Music*

• David Debick

*Financial Secretary*

• Joy Garapic

*Ministers*

All of our Members

*Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger*

## **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, 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.

### ***Summer Office Hours:***

**Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 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 24, 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Meditation Music

Divine Source of New Life and Re-birth, may the light and love of the Christ Child be reborn in our hearts and our lives this day. And may our hearts rejoice as we celebrate the glorious message of Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All! Amen!

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

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

#### Prelude

On December's Frozen Ground

Catalonian

"Blooming at our humble feet,  
Winter's chill defying,  
Springs a lily pale and sweet,  
Fragrant and inspiring.  
All the world can feel its pow'r,  
Shining in our darkest hour,  
All the sweetest fragrance,  
Bless us with your radiance."  
Traditional Catalonian (Spain)

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: People of the Holy One, as we gather to seek the Holy Child,

**People: May we be led by the brightness of his guiding light!**

L: People of Hope, as we come to have our faith and our lives renewed,

**P: May we find our inspiration and strength in Christ's gracious example!**

L: People of Faith, as we are called to serve the Child of Bethlehem,

**All: May we serve him through our compassionate care for all our sister and brothers!**

#### \* Hymn of Praise

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

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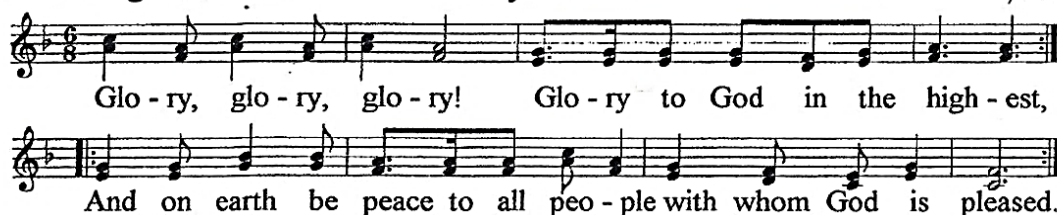
#### \*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

**Gracious Holy One, may we - like Mary - also be filled with wonder and joy today, as we ponder the meaning of Christ's birth. Help us to see your gift of love, in the birth of every child and in the life of each person. Inspire us, through Jesus' story and example, to live our lives fully and joyfully in the service of others - especially those who need our care the most. Amen.**

**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**The Candle of Love**

[As the Candles are lighted, we will sing the following verse of *One Candle Is Lit*]

*Come wander, where lion and lamb gently play,  
Where evil is banished and faith takes the day.  
A babe in a manger astounds the world's eyes,  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise!*

L: Our fourth Advent candle is the Candle of Love.

**P: In Jesus Christ, Divine Love is wrapped in human form.**

L: As the light of this candle burns brightly, so may the love of Christ shine brightly in our hearts and lives;

**P: That those who seek light and warmth may find it among us.**

L: As the light of Christ's love touches, inspires, and transforms us,

**P: May we use our lives to touch others with hope, peace, and joy!**

**The Old Testament**

Micah 5:2-4

Pew Bible, page 865

**The New Testament**

Luke 2:8-20

Pew Bible, page 58

**The Continuing Testament** from *Commentary on Luke*

by Karyn Wiseman

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Gesu Bambino

Yon, arr. Spevacek

*[Don and Evelyn Seager, soloists]*

**Sermon**

*Let's Ponder That for a Moment....*

Pastor Dave Shackle

**Hymn of Reflection**

What Child Is This

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# ***The Church at Prayer***

**Silent Meditation**

**Prayers of the Church**

**The Prayer of Jesus**

*[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**

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Schop, harm. Bach

**\* 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' name. Amen**

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**Eternal Holy One, we thank you for all the gifts of Creation and for the gift of Life  
itself. This morning we raise our hearts in gratitude for the gift of Jesus Christ,  
whose humble birth and gracious life reminds us that there is no place on earth  
that your love cannot reach. Bless these gifts, that they may serve to extend our  
care to others, so that the light of Christ's love might radiate from this community,  
and spread throughout our world. Amen.**

## Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

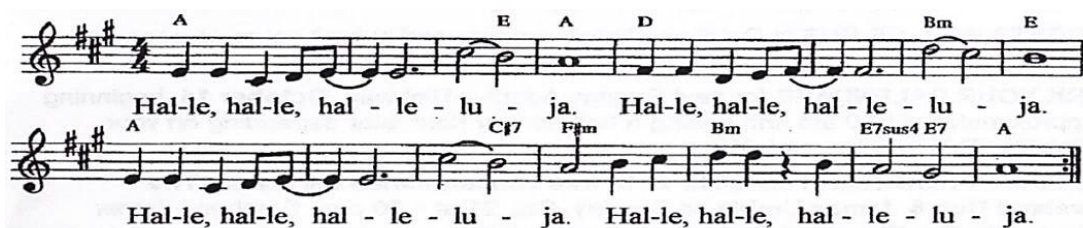
#144

\*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

Tell Me, Shepherd

Hyde, arr. Savoy

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

Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, 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 December 17, 2017 – Adults: 96 Kids: 21Total: 117**

## 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.

**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.

**TONIGHT'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE AT 10:00 pm.** We will commemorate Jesus' birth with carols and Scripture, and celebrate Christ's timeless presence through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our service will conclude with our traditional Circle of Candlelight, as we each receive and spread to others the Light of Christ's love and peace.

**PASTOR DAVE WILL BE ON VACATION** from Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ann Klonowski has graciously offered to be available in the event of a pastoral emergency. She can be reached by cell phone at 216-544-4717.

**THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING** will be received at the 10pm Candlelight Service. The offering helps retired and low-income clergy and lay workers of the UCC. The funds go directly to those in need. Especially important are health care premium supplements and cost of prescription medications.

**STILL LOOKING FOR GIFTS IDEAS?** Here's a suggestion. There will be tables in Pilgrim Hall and the Upper Commons after church with BUCC Cookbooks that were produced for our bicentennial. The price is \$10 per book and the delicious recipes are from BUCC members and friends.

**DID YOU NOTICE** that the magic mitten tree looks comparatively bare? That is because it only took about two weeks to fill up with hats and mittens, etc., thanks to the magic. The magic is the expression of concern for others by BUCC members and friends. Thanks go to all the "magicians" who faithfully keep filling up the tree.

Incidentally, the hats and mittens were delivered to Brookside Hunger Center for distribution to families with children when they come to receive food items. The center was very glad to see hats and mittens for the children.

**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.

**DID YOU MISS** last Sunday's service or do you just want to have a chance to rehear Pastor Dave's sermon. The Sunday services are recorded in their entirety on audio CDs each week. You can borrow a CD in the church office and listen to it at your convenience at home or in your car. Several recent weeks' recordings are always available. Check them out and check them out.

**ALTAR FLOWERS – (2018 list coming soon!)** are a good way to celebrate an event or person or to remember a loved one. Our flower chart in the narthex has many open slots awaiting your name. Please select the date you wish to reserve now. Please fill out the dedication sheet from the pocket and drop it into the collection plate or leave it in the office.

## ***Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Micah 5:2-4**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

### **The New Testament - Luke 2:8-20**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**The Continuing Testament** - from *Commentary on Luke 2* - by Karyn Wiseman [edited]

Many new parents have fears and dreams for their newborns. Many worry about how their children’s lives will turn out and if they will be happy. Some are confronted with a child’s illness from the outset, while others will deal with significant health concerns for their children later on in life. Some will be close to their children and some will never learn to relate. Many will face tough teenage and young adult years. Others will watch their children thrive and succeed.

My mother told me, shortly after I adopted my son, that all I can do is my best and then leave the rest to God and the lessons I teach my son in the years he is in my care. I imagine that is part of what Mary is feeling. She is exhausted but happy. She is concerned but hopeful. And she knows that God has a role in her son’s life unlike anything the world had seen or heard of before.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, December 24</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
	<b>10:00 pm</b>	<b>Candlelight Service</b>
<b>Monday, December 25</b>	<b>*Merry Christmas!*</b>	
<b>Thursday, December 28</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>Friday, December 29</b>	<b>*Office Closed*</b>	
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 24, 2017**

Lay Reader:	David Ritchey
Head Usher	Bob Chandler
Ushers:	Beth Rehling, Sam Koch Jess Barnes, Cliff Cribbs
Acolyte:	Carli Began
Peace Candle:	Drew Demko
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr:	Betty Kaul
Flowers:	POINSETTIAS
Nursery:	Courtnei Began
Counters:	Jon Thompson, Jim Duffy
Servers:	Michele Namitka, Darlene Kelly
Clean Up:	David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks:	Betty Kaul, Marilyn Wrights
Snow Herder:	Jim Demko

**DECEMBER 24, 2017 – 10:00 PM**

Lay Reader:	Carole Snider
Head Usher:	Jan Renovetz
Ushers:	Diane Gressley, Donn Whyte Kate Klonowski, George Snider
Commons:	Dave Bernard
Sound:	Doug Fawcett

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Lay Reader:	Tia Began
Head Usher	Anne Melfo
Ushers:	Bridget & Chad Sproul Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte:	Grace Hunt
Peace Candle:	Lily Hunt
Sound:	David Pastor
Comms Grtr:	Jill Zedan
Flowers:	Julie Bernard
Nursery:	Jess Barnes
Counters:	Kathy Pastor, Jon Thompson
Servers:	Sue & Cliff Stenzel
Clean Up:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks:	Marla Corrado, Bridget Sproul

## **2017 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

Anonymous

*In Memory of the Lost but Not Forgotten.*

Anonymous

*In Memory of loved ones.*

Julie Bernard &  
Linda Kriynovich

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

Midge Cassidy

*In Honor of Kirk & Lee Sanderson  
In Memory of Robert Rhoton*

Marla Corrado

*In Memory of my father, William Zmich*

Marjorie Culver

*In Memory of Richard & Carlton Culver, Ron Lang, and  
Nan Martin.*

Dorothy Faust

*In Memory of my parents, Clinton & Caroline Tallant*

Dorie Gabor

*In Memory of my husband Steve, my sister Ruth, and my  
brother, Richard.*

Joy Garapic

*In Memory of William Garapic, Dear Husband, Father,  
Grandfather.*

Diane Gressley

*In Memory of Evan & Emma Gressley.*

The Harris Family

*In Loving Memory of Bill Harris, "We miss you papa."*

Betty Kaul

*In Memory of Jim and David Kaul*

Dassie Matsuoka &  
Daughters

*In Memory of James Matsuoka.*

Carol Miller &  
Pat Rehm

*In Honor of Miller & Rehm Families  
In Honor of Rehm & Miller Families*

Fred Pesek

*In Memory of Constance B. Pesek*

Max Roha

*In Loving Memory David J. Roha, Mary C. Roha, and Lois L. Wallin.*

Mariam R.  
Rosewicz

*Blessings for Family and Friends.*

Kathy Smith

*In Glory for my Grandchildren.*

Carole Snider

*In Memory of Lawrence Snider, brother of George.*

Nancy Stella

*In Memory of those in the Stella and Truex families who  
Have passed on but not forgotten; Our Husband, Parents,  
And Grandparents.*

Chad Sproul

*In Memory of Charlie & Pat Sproul  
In Honor of Lois and Rudy Lorenzo  
In Honor of Bridget Sproul*

Bill & Toneff

*In Loving Memory of Ann Toneff*

Sherrill Witt

*In Honor of Shirley and Arch Duncan  
In Honor of the Witt Family.  
In Honor of the Bishop & Peart Legacy  
In Honor of our BUCC Church Family*

Jill Zedan

*In Memory of my Mother, Father, Sister, and Husband.*