

BRECKSVILLE

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 Source of all, we are eager to celebrate the day of your appearance, in the birth of Jesus. With this event you interrupted the human experience of a division between divinity and humanity. You caused your Presence to intersect with ours in new ways. Give us the imagination and faith to understand who we are in light of the mystical experiences we share with you and with each other. Amen.



Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 16, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Third 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, or pangender
You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, 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!



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, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

December 16, 2018 – Third Sunday Of Advent

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, our faith teaches us that we cannot know everything about you. We cannot know everything about church, or about the work the Spirit does throughout creation. But when we do hear and when we do know, may we be bold enough to speak-out when required, to inform and educate others when needed, and to pray in solidarity with our brothers and sisters. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Dirksen

"Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heaven descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.

Word almighty, we revere you;

Word made flesh, we long to hear you."

James Quinn (1919-2010)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The heavens declare the Holy One's glory,

People: Let the earth rejoice, let the hills and forest sing for joy!

L: Glory to God in the highest,

P: And peace to all people on earth!

L: Today, may the Sacred Story of Christ's coming stir-up our souls,

P: To refresh and renew our lives and our faith!

L: Today, may the Love of the Christ Child shine within us,

All: To be treasured, and nurtured, and spread throughout the earth!

*** Hymn of Praise**

With Joy Draw Water

#109

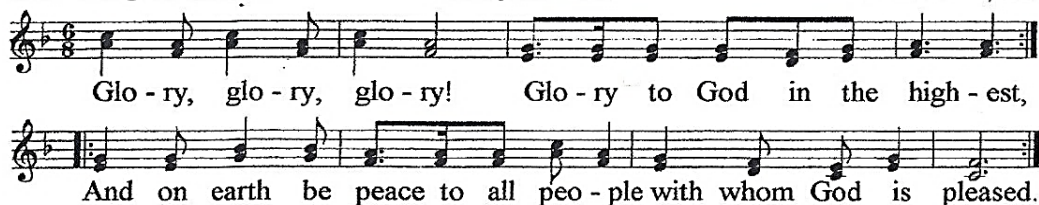
*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Divine Source of Peace and Promise, as we approach another Christmas, fill us with your compassion and joy. Inspire us by your Spirit, so that in and through our music and praise we might delight in you and bring glory to your Name. May this time of worship touch our hearts, so that we might renew our commitment to serve you, by serving others. This we pray in the name of Christ - our Leader, Example, and Friend. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Lighting the Advent Wreath The Candle of Joy

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

Come festively sing, while awaiting the birth,
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

L: Our third Advent Candle is the Candle of Joy.

P: Joy to the world, our Savior comes!

L: The Light of Christ brings hope and joy to our turbulent world;

P: The Light of Christ brings hope and joy to our troubled lives.

L: May the Light of Christ's love shine brightly in us and through us,

P: That we might bring hope to others and fill the world with joy!

The Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible, page 690

The New Testament

Luke 1:46-55

Pew Bible, page 57

The Continuing Testament

-from *The Birth of Christ and the Birth of Christmas* –

by Edward Markquart

Time with Young Worshipers

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

Christmas Phantasy

Schoonenbeek

*** 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 [Unison]**

**Gracious Holy One, we lift up to you our songs of praise, our hearts of joy, and our
gifts of love. Bless these gifts that they may be a source of blessing to others.
Renew our lives, that we might use them to further the work of your Holy Realm.
This we ask in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#154

*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

Noël Laissez paître vos bêtes
Translation: Let your animals graze.

Charpentier

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Suzanne Patrick, Niece of Kathy Smith, Pat Bailey, Fred Pesek, Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, 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 9, 2018 – Adults: 92 Kids: 17 Total: 109

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshipping 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.

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT/COMMUNION SERVICE will be at 10:00 p.m.. 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 the Light of Christ's love and peace!

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING will be received on Monday, December 24th at the 10 PM service. The collection will be used to provide gifts and pension supplementation for clergy and lay employees at all stages in their lives and ministries. Health premium and emergency grants are also included. These funds are critical for a sustainable quality of life for these "veterans of the cross".

THE MITTEN TREE in the narthex is nearly bare of items. The previous "ornaments" have been taken to a hunger center to be distributed when families receive food and other items. The mitten tree angels supplied five! bags of hats and mittens! This magic tree will probably fill up two or three times before the cold weather is over, which says something about the view of BUCC members and friends about outreach.

LAST-MINUTE MART! Today! (during coffee hour after the Cantata), we invite those who have crafts or gifts to sell to bring them to BUCC! For a suggested donation of only \$25, you can set up a table in Pilgrim Hall to offer items to sell to support your small business, crafty habit, baking, or charity efforts. The rest of us can then enjoy shopping for Christmas presents! To sign up for table space, please contact Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 keightykay@gmail.com or during coffee hour. All proceeds will benefit the Pastor's Fund!

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR NORTHEAST OHIO SPCA on Brookpark Road. It is a no kill shelter and the animals are cared for there until they find a forever home. The items needed are: old blankets, bedding/linens, towels, pet items like collars, toys, beds, food/water bowls, Purina dog and cat food, and anything else that might be good for pets. If church members would like to donate, they can give the items to me at any time or just leave them on the pew in the entry way with my name or "pet shelter donation" written on them. I'll collect them whenever they are placed there. If anyone has any other questions, they can contact me. Thanks! Marla Corrado.

JANUARY 2019 PILLAR DEADLINE is tomorrow, please submit your articles to Jeannette at buccoh@sbcglobal.net

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.

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.

OUR COMPLETE WORSHIP SERVICE, including anthems, hymns, etc., is fed by our sound system to our new audio-CD recorder (CDs are available in the church office for borrowing) and to the narthex speakers (for the benefit of anyone who must leave the sanctuary because of a restless child or for any other reason). If you should use one of the portable microphones during the service, please do not turn it off but return it to its location so that its continuing feed is not eliminated from the system.

MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE the Church Calendar is also printed on our website: www.brecksvilleucc.org. It is filled with up to date events, and times, even last minute changes. Please check it out.

Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Holy One has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Holy One will arise upon you, whose glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the Holy Ones praise.

The New Testament - Luke 1:46-55

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Holy One, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor upon this lowly servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name. Divine mercy is upon those who revere the Holy One from generation to generation. God has shown strength with God's arm; has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. God has helped God's servant Israel, in remembrance of Divine mercy, according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever."

The Continuing Testament - from *The Birth of Christ and the Birth of Christmas* by Edward Markquart [edited]

St. Nicholas was not some fat bellied, red suited, white bearded old man who appeared in every department store to have children sit on his lap. Rather, St. Nicholas originally was a bishop in the church in a land called Smyrna, now the area of Turkey. He didn't go around giving gifts to all the kids on all the streets and all the cul-de-sacs. ►

No, his giving was specific and to the specific needs of particular children: shoes for those children who had no shoes; clothes for those children who had no clothes; food for those children who had no food. The special giving of St. Nicholas was to meet the special need of those around him. The heart of St. Nicholas was filled with love and joy, so he joyfully gave gifts of love to those who needed them.

That is what Christ is all about - that God sent Jesus to give us human beings what we really needed most in life: hearts filled with love and joy. That is what you and I need from God this Christmas - a joyful heart filled with love. O yes, we have tons of wants. We are like children with a catalogue before Christmas, circling all our wants by the dozens. But we have one essential *need*: a heart filled with love. God wants to give you a heart filled with love on this Christmas, and every day of your life!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 16	10:00 am	Worship Service/Cantata
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	Congregational Meeting
	11:00 am	Last Minute Mart
Thurs., Dec. 20	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	4:30 pm	Rec/Dul/Gtr
Friday, Dec 21		*Office Closed*
Sunday, Dec. 23	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, Dec. 24	10:00 pm	Candlelight/Communion Service & Christmas Offering

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICE

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Bob Chandler, Diane Gressley
Beth Rehling, David Ritchey
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Valerie Tyler
Flowers: POINSETTIAS
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E Teacher: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Counters: Marge Culver, Kathy Pastor
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Susan Snyder, Sue Stenzel
Snow Hrdr: Dave Bernard

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

DECEMBER 23, 2018

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel
Ushers: Kate Klonowski, Matt Wolbert,
Joe & Betsey Wilson
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: POINSETTIAS
Nursery: Jonathan Cook
C.E. Teacher: Tia Began
Counters: Carole Snider, Jim Duffy
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Joy Garapic
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Dorie Gabor, Anne Melfo
Snow Hrdr: Doug Fawcett

Candlelight/Communion Service

DECEMBER 24, 2018

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Sam Koch, Jon Thompson
George & Carole Snider
Comns Grtr: Kathy Smith
Sound: Kevin Smith