



# 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*

Gracious Holy One, as we draw closer to the celebration of Christ's birth, may we continue to draw closer to you and to one another. Help us to recognize your Presence in the beauty and bounty of Creation. Help us to see you in the faces of all those people around us - especially those who need our help, compassion and care. This we pray in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.



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**Sunday, December 23, 2018 • 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, 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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## December 23, 2018 – Fourth Sunday Of Advent

### Meditation Music

Divine Source of all, in this season where money and what it can buy seems to be the measure of the season, remind us that there is another economy at work in the world; an economy that values people over possessions, and the lowly over the powerful. Give strength to our sisters and brothers who seek shelter and safety within our borders; and give us courage to stand-up for what is merciful and right. Amen.

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

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

#### Prelude

Joy to the World

Handel

*[Recorder/dulcimer/guitar Ensemble; Youth Percussion Group]*

"He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love."  
Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

#### Bearing the Light of Peace

#### Bearing the Light of Christ

#### \*Call to Worship

L: O Come, all you faithful, and all you who are seeking faith!

**P: This is the season to sing and rejoice!**

L: Come, let us make a joyful noise to the Holy One!

**P: Let us come into the Divine Presence with praise and thanksgiving!**

L: And let us celebrate the wonder of the Holy One coming among us!

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!**

#### \* Hymn of Praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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

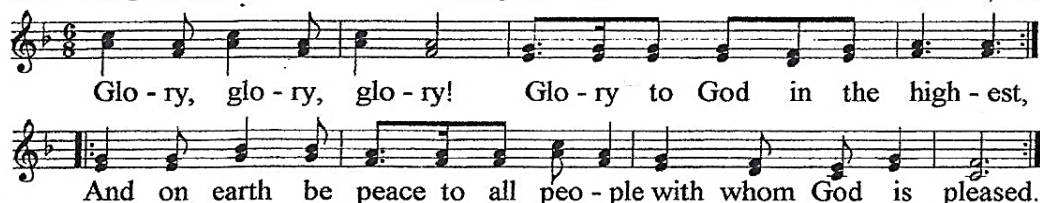
**Gracious Holy One, help us to see the signs of your love among us and within us, and to discover the true joy and message of this Holy Season. Open our hearts to see beyond the baby in the manger, to the grace-filled person Jesus became.**

**Enable us to see within the person of Jesus, your own incredible love reaching out to us all. Give us the gift of your compassion and peace, and lead us forward in your path of abundant love and grace. 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!*

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

**People: 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**

Isaiah 55:6-13

Pew Bible, page 685

**The New Testament**

John 1:1-5; 10-14

Pew Bible, page 91

**The Continuing Testament**

from *Who Is Christ?*

by Richard Rohr

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn  
[Diane Gressley, soprano; Dave Debick, baritone]

Haugen

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Sermon**

*Louder than Words*

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**

There's a Star in the East

African-American spiritual

**\* 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

God Christian Friends, Rejoice

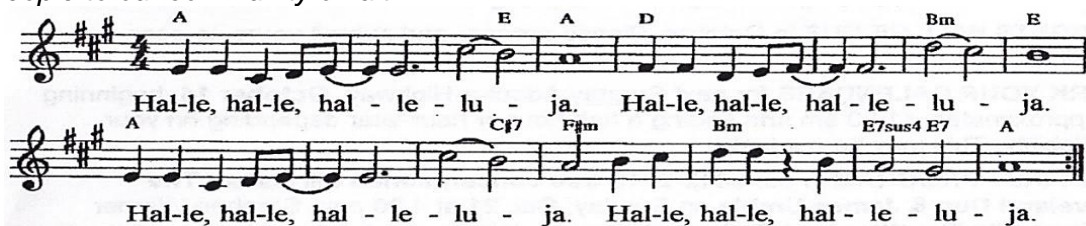
#129

\*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

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Schop, harm. J. S. Bach

### 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 16, 2018 – Adults: 111 Kids: 14 Total: 125

## 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.

**TOMORROW'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. 26<sup>th</sup> through Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. Ann Klonowski has graciously offered to be available in the event of a pastoral emergency. She can be reached through the Church Office [440-526-4364] or by cell phone [216-544-4717].

**THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING** will be received tomorrow, December 24<sup>th</sup> at the 10 PM service. The collection will be used to provide pension supplementation for retired UCC Clergy and lay employees. Health premium and emergency grants are also included. These funds are critical for a sustainable quality of life for these "servants 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.

**FINANCE** 2019 Offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Commons.

**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.

## ***Readings***

### **The Old Testament** - Isaiah 55:6-13

Seek the Holy One while the Holy One may be found, call upon the Holy One while the Holy One is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Holy One, that they may receive mercy, and to our God, who will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Holy One. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I intend, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn, shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier, shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Holy One as a memorial, as an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

### **The New Testament** - John 1:1-5; 10-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was Life, and the Life was the Light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.... He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came unto his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of The Holy One, those born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of human will, but of the Divine will. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth.

### **The Continuing Testament** - from *Who Is Christ?*- by Richard Rohr [edited]

What if we've missed the point of who Christ is, what Christ is, and where Christ is? I believe that a Christian is simply one who has learned to see Christ everywhere. Understanding the Universal or Cosmic Christ can change the way we relate to creation, to other religions, to other people, to ourselves, and to God. Knowing and experiencing this Christ can bring about a major shift in consciousness. ►



The Universal Christ is Divine Presence pervading all of creation since the very beginning. God's first "idea" was to become manifest - to pour out Divine, infinite love into finite, visible forms. The "Big Bang" is now our scientific name for that first idea; and "Christ" is our Christian theological name. Both are about life, love and beauty exploding outward in all directions. Creation is indeed the expansive Body of the Divine!

In Jesus, this eternal omnipresence had a precise, concrete, and personal reference point. The Divine Presence became more obvious and believable in the world. The formless took on form in someone we could "hear, see, and touch", making our Holy Source easier to love. But it seems we fell so in love with this personal interface in Jesus that we forgot about the eternal Christ, the Body of the Divine which is all of creation. Jesus and Christ are not exactly the same. In the early Christian era, only a few noticed that the Christ was clearly historically older, larger, and different than Jesus himself. They mystically saw that Jesus is the union of human and Divine in space and time; Christ is the eternal union of matter and Spirit from the beginning of time.

When we believe in Jesus Christ, we're believing in something much bigger than the historical incarnation that we call Jesus. Jesus is the visible map. The entire sweep of the meaning of the Anointed One, the Christ, includes *us*, and includes all of creation since the beginning of time.

### **2018 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

Anonymous

*In Honor of the Lost but Not Forgotten.*

Julie Bernard &  
Linda Kriynovich

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

Jane & Cliff  
Cribbs

*In Memory of Barbara Convey.*

Marjorie Culver

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

Dorothy Faust

*In Memory of my Husband, John Faust.*

Dorothy Faust

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

Anna Mary Fisher

*In Memory of Friends & Family no longer with us.*

Dorie Gabor

*In Memory of Those Gone but not Forgotten.*



<u>Joy Garapic</u>	<i>In Memory of William Garapic, Dear Husband, Father, Grandfather.</i>
<u>Barb Gray</u>	<i>In Honor of all the elderly members of our church who are in their 90's, and still bring Joy to the world.</i>
<u>Diane Gressley</u>	<i>In Memory of Loved Ones.</i>
<u>Betty &amp; Karen Kaul</u>	<i>In Memory of Jim and David Kaul.</i>
<u>Lois Lorenzo</u>	<i>In Memory of Donn Whyte.</i>
<u>Carol Miller &amp; Pat Rehm</u>	<i>In Memory of John &amp; Lorraine Urban In Honor of the Unetic Family In Honor of the Robert &amp; Margaret Miller Family.</i>
<u>Fred Pesek</u>	<i>In Memory of my Beloved Wife, Constance B. Pesek.</i>
<u>Max Roha</u>	<i>In Loving Memory of Mary C. Roha, and Lois L. Wallin.</i>
<u>Nancy Stella</u>	<i>In Memory of those in the Stella and Truex families who Have passed on but not forgotten.</i>
<u>Jon Thompson</u>	<i>In Memory of my Brother, Ralph Kim Thompson, And all that have been lost to Aids.</i>
<u>Tim &amp; Kim Wallis</u>	<i>In Honor of our 3 years of Marriage.</i>
<u>Sherrill &amp; Bill Witt</u>	<i>In Honor of Shirley and Arch Duncan. In Honor of the Witt Family. In Honor of the Bishop Family. In Honor of the Joy that comes from BUCC. In Honor of Anelia Wright &amp; Sheri Jensen.</i>
<u>Jill Zedan</u>	<i>In deep gratitude for my life on this planet, and for Amazing family and friends.</i>

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Dec. 23</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Monday, Dec. 24</b>	<b>10:00 pm</b>	<b>Candlelight/Communion Service &amp; Christmas Offering</b>
		<b>*Christmas Offering</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 25</b>		<b>Merry Christmas!</b>
		<b>*Office Closed*</b>
<b>Friday, Dec 28</b>		<b>*Office Closed*</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 30</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS 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 Bill & Sherrill Witt
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Smith
Sound:	Kevin Smith

**DECEMBER 30, 2018**

Lay Reader:	Betsey Wilson
Head Usher:	Jon Thompson
Ushers:	Betty Kaul, Jill Zedan Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte:	Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle:	Natalie Corrado
Sound:	Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr:	Bettina Ortiz
Flowers:	Julie Bernard
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher:	Anne Melfo
Counters:	David Pastor, Matt Wolbert
Servers:	Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel
Clean-up:	Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Snacks:	Pat Rehm, Marilyn Wrights
Snow Hrdr:	Joe Began