

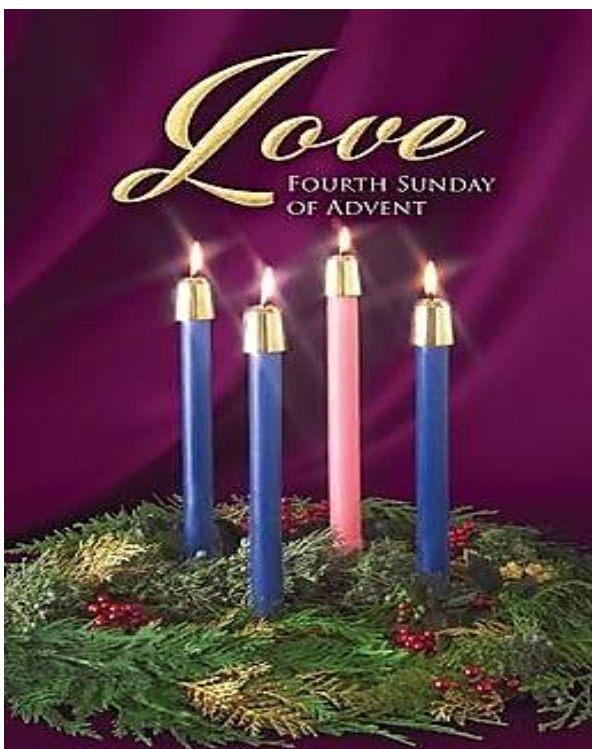
# BRECKSVILLE

## 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***

***"The world  
does not  
understand  
theology or  
dogma, but it  
understands  
love and  
sympathy."  
—Dwight L.  
Moody***



**Sunday December 22, 2019 • 10:00 AM**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Pastor*

• Allan Lane

*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 22, 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Meditation Music

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of human suffering. That is what love looks like.” St. Augustine

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

#### Prelude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J. S. Bach

"Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!  
Who is it in yon manger lies?  
Who is this child so young and fair?  
The blessed Christ-child lieth there."

Martin Luther, 1534; English trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855

### Bearing the Light of Peace

### Bearing the Light of Christ

#### 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: To Hope and Peace and Joy we now add our final candle before the Christ candle itself: the candle of Love.

**People: In Jesus Christ, God's love took on flesh and walked among us.**

L: The flame of the candle consumes the candle as it burns, but God's love burns brightly within us without ever consuming us.

**P: God's love empowers us to love others. We love because God first loved us.**

L: God's love within us transforms us, for as it grows, our souls expand to embrace it.

**P: May the love of God find a home within us, now and always.**

**\* Call to Worship**

Leader: All who come here today, know how deep, how high, how broad is the love of God for you in Jesus Christ.

**People: We love God because God first loved us; God's love for us flows through us and out of us to others.**

Leader: Not wanting to frighten anyone away from God's love, God took on human flesh and became a human infant, tender and mild.

**People: The baby Jesus calls forth our love, because becoming human in the midst of a hurting and divided world is one of God's great acts of love.**

Leader: Let us worship the God who loves us!

**\* Hymn of Praise**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#129

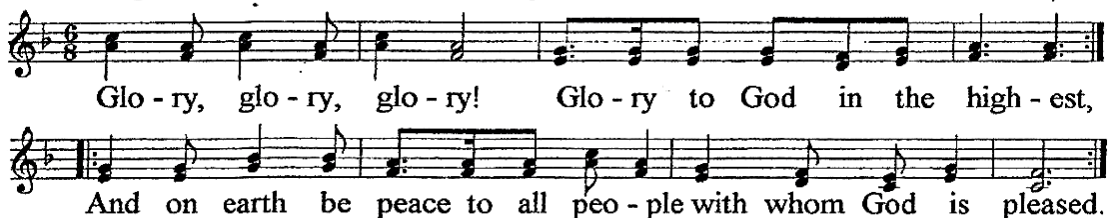
**\* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

We come into your presence, O God, on this last Sunday of Advent, with our hearts full of hope and peace and joy and love. All these things you have made ours in Jesus Christ. We have hope because he has overcome death. We have peace because he showed us your unstinting goodness. We have joy because all will one day be made right. We have love because you love us with an eternal love. Forgive us when we have taken hope instead of inspired it. Forgive us when we have broken peace instead of kept it. Forgive us when we have stolen joy, instead of given it. Forgive us when we have withheld love instead of passed it on. We ask it all in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen

**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The New Testament

1 John 4:7-12

Pew Bible Page 241

Extra-Biblical Thought

**\*See Readings\***

Time with Young Worshipers

Cantata

*Emmanuel--God with Us!* Arranged & composed by Lloyd Larson  
(see insert)

# ***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**

Noel

D'Aquin

**\* 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]**

**By God's love we seek the best for others; by God's love we seek to nurture  
creation; by God's love we love and accept ourselves because God has already  
loved and accepted us. We ask that you accept these gifts and offerings from us, O  
God, to show forth your love to the 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

Carol of the Bells

Leontovych

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

The Family of Pat Bailey, Leroy Ford, Nancy Stella, Betty Kaul, Don Seager, The Corpora Family, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Richard Sacher, brother of Jan Renovetz, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (Niece of Kathy Smith), Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, 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 Sunday, December 15, 2019 – Adults: 85 Kids: 25 Total: 110**

## 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 childcare 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 SERVICE** Will be Tuesday at 10 PM. Hope you can join us for this uplifting Worship Service.

**THE BUCC LIBRARY** invites you to take a look at the grown-ups' and teens' books for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany displayed on the top shelf of the red book cart. Children's books for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are displayed on the lowest shelf of the red book cart.

**THE MITTEN TREE** has sprouted in the narthex again, just waiting to be “decorated” with hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to be delivered to those who will need them in the cold weather. They are delivered to hunger centers when the donated food items are delivered to hunger centers.

**FOOD PANTRY/DECEMBER-** Small Canned Hams, Canned Sweet & White Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pie Crust Mix, Canned Pumpkin, etc.

**PFLAG** - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This is a local and national organization that has been in the Cleveland Area for 35 years. One of the services provided is a Monthly Support Group Meeting. The group is led by a licensed Psychologist and Social Workers. The purpose is to provide support and education to family and friends of people coming out Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual or Questioning. The group is free and meets at Trinity Cathedral on the second Tuesday of the month 645p-830p. For more information, call Mark Lehman, LISW at 330.631.4415

## ***Readings***

### **The New Testament - 1 John 4: 7-12**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

### **Extra-Biblical Thought**

“Now, if someone should ask, why then did God not appear using some other, nobler part of creation, or use some nobler instrument, such as the sun, ►

or moon, or stars, or fire, or air, instead of merely using a human being ? Let them know that the Lord came not to put on a show, but to heal and to teach those who were suffering. 2. You see, the way for one trying to put on a show would be, just to appear, and to dazzle the beholders; but for one seeking to heal and teach the way is, not simply to show up here, but to give himself to the aid of those in need, and to appear as those who need him can bear it, so that he might not, by exceeding the requirements of the sufferers, trouble the very people that need him, making God's appearance useless to them. 3. Now, nothing in creation had gone astray with regard to their notions of God, save humans only. Why, neither the sun, nor the moon, nor the heavens, nor the stars, nor water, nor air had swerved from their order; but knowing their Maker and Sovereign, the Word, they remain even now as they were made. But humans alone, having rejected what was good, then devised big nothings instead of the truth, and have ascribed the honor due to God, and their knowledge of God, to demons and people in the shape of stones. 4. It makes sense, then, since God's own divine goodness shouldn't overlook such a bad situation, that God should act even while humans were unable to recognize that it was God ordering and guiding the whole universe. So God decided to take a part of that whole, a tiny part, the human body, and unite God own self with that, so that, even if humans couldn't recognize God in the whole universe, they could at least recognize God in this human part; and since they couldn't look up to God's invisible power, they might, at least, be able to reason to God and to contemplate God from what resembled themselves." St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*



## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Dec. 22</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship/Cantata *CHRISTMAS OFFERING* 11:00 am Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 24</b>		<b>*Office Closed*</b>
	<b>10:00 pm</b>	<b>Candlelight Service</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 25</b>		<b><i>Merry Christmas To All!</i></b>
<b>Thursday, Dec. 26</b>		<b>*Limited Office Hours*</b>
<b>Friday, Dec. 27</b>		<b>*Office Closed*</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 29</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

### **DECEMBER 22, 2019**

Lay Reader:	Betsey Wilson
Head Usher:	Jan Renovetz
Ushers:	George & Carole Snider Carrie Coyer-Westerberg, Michelina Fawcett
Acolyte:	Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle:	Evelyn Kucmins
Sound:	Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr:	Marge Culver
Flowers:	Poinsettias
Nursery:	Courtnei Began
C.E. Teacher:	Anne Melfo-Fawcett
Counters:	Dave Bernard, Jan Renovetz
Servers:	Julie Bernard, Sue Stenzel
Snacks:	Choir Cantata
Clean-Up:	Jim & Peg Duffy
Snow Herder:	James Tyler Sproul
Snow Herder:	Dan Stewart

### **DECEMBER 24, 2019 – CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Lay Reader:	Jan Renovetz
Head Usher:	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	David Ritchey, Jon Thompson
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Smith
Sound:	Kevin Smith

## **PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

### **DECEMBER 29, 2019**

Lay Reader:	Matt Wolbert
Head Usher:	Caroline Chandler
Ushers:	Diane Gressley, David Ritchey Beth Rehling, Heidi Spangler
Acolyte:	Olivia Klonowski
Peace Candle:	Gabriella Gagliano
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Fred Pesek
Flowers:	Poinsettias
Nursery:	Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher:	Kate Klonowski
Counters:	Marge Culver, Jon Thompson
Servers:	Cliff Stenzel, Carole Snider
Snacks:	Beth Rehling, Pat Rehm
Clean-up:	Sue Stenzel, Jan Renovetz
Snow Herder:	Tim Wallis

## **2019 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**



**Anonymous**

***In Honor of the Lost but Not Forgotten.***

**Julie Bernard &  
Linda Kriynovich**

***In Memory of Bernard & Gorenc Family Members  
Always in our Hearts.***

**Marjorie Culver**

***In Memory of Family & Friends – lost but never forgotten!***

**Dorie Gabor**

***In Memory of my Husband, Steven E. Gabor.***

**Joy Garapic**

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

**Harris, Wade &  
Anderson Families**

***In Memory of Bill Harris who is missed every day.***

**Betty Kaul**

***In Memory of Jim and David Kaul, and for both parents.***

**Ed Lusk**

***In Loving Memory of Greg Lusk and Milly Lusk.***

**Carol Miller &  
Pat Rehm**

***For the Rob Miller Family  
For the Kathleen Unetic and Fmaily  
In Memory of Jarrod Kapp  
In Memory of Chase Dorman***

**Phyllis Molnar**

***In Honor of my Husband Edward Molnar, and Parents  
George & Bertha Ulsenheimer.***

**Fred Pesek**

***In Memory of my Beloved Wife, Constance B. Pesek.***

**Ed & June  
Puwal**

***In Memory of Puwal & Waglen family – parents who are with  
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.***

**The  
Rahnenfuehrer  
Family**

***In Memory of Jan Rahnenfuehrer.***

**Max Roha**

***In Loving Memory of Mary, David & Lois.***

**Kathy Smith**

***In Honor of Suzanne & Raegan.***

**The Stella  
Family**

***In Memory of Fathers, Mothers, Grandparents who are  
no longer with us, but are never forgotten  
In Special Remembrance for Ginny Koch – our Sister & Aunt  
who left us this year.***

**Jill Zedan**

***In Honor of all my friends and family who have “gone before.”***