



# 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*

*May our families,  
whether  
created by  
chance or  
fashioned by  
choice, be  
places of joy  
and  
compassion,  
love and  
forgiveness.  
We ask this in  
the name of  
Jesus. Amen*



**Sunday, December 29, 2019 • 10:00 AM**

**First Sunday After Christmas**

*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 29, 2019 – First Sunday After Christmas

### Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, we celebrate Jesus coming to be among us. You sent him to us, not as a gloriously unapproachable deity, but as a baby in a family. Thank you for reminding us who Jesus is and who we should be.

### *Gathering in God's Presence*

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

#### Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

16th century German,  
setting Brahms

#### Bearing the Light of Peace

#### Bearing the Light of Christ

#### \* Call to Worship

Leader: We celebrate Christmas and celebrate families.

**People: We are all members of families, of all sorts of families.**

L: We celebrate God's entering our lives as a child, longed for and loved.

**P: We await the day when all children will be longed for and loved.**

L: Human love is the face of God's overflowing love.

**P: We praise the Holy One for giving us one another.**

L: We pray all this in the name of Jesus.

**P: Amen!**

#### \* Hymn of Praise

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#126

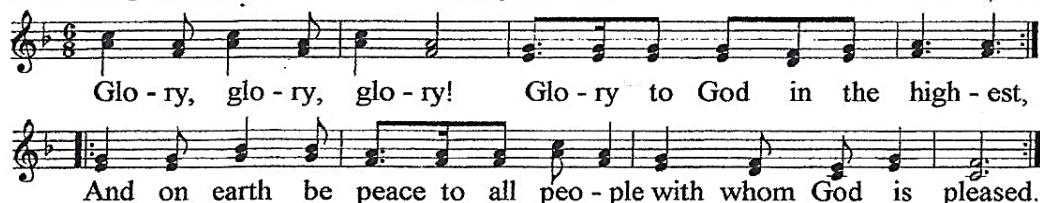
#### \*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

**Generous Giver, we gather in joy and thanksgiving to praise you for the gracious gift of Jesus, your child, our brother. May this holy season of Christmas keep us filled with joy and wonder and love, not only through the Christmas season, but through the coming year. Amen.**

**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**The New Testament**

Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel**

Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

**The Continuing Testament**

*The Law of Caring*

by Joan Chittister

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Gesu Bambino

Yon

*[Don and Evelyn Seager, vocalists]*

**Sermon**

Rev. Mary Eileen Collingwood

**Hymn of Reflection**

Away in a Manger

#124

***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**

Noël

Dubois

#### **\* 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]**

We ask you most grace-filled of Holy Families,  
to protect and watch over this family of faith,  
so that in the strength of your grace we may enjoy prosperity,  
possess the priceless gift of peace, and, as the Church alive in the home,  
bear witness in this world to the glory of God among us.

## ***Going with God's Love***

**Hymn of Departure**

Joy to the World

#132

#### **\*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*

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' written below. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff also has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the second line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' written below. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

#### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Sing a Song of Gladness

Bricusse

**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.)*

**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 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.

**PASTOR ALLAN WILL BE ON VACATION** from Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> through Jan 3<sup>RD</sup>.

**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.

**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

**2020 BUCC MUSIC MINISTRY** - Here are the starting dates and times of Brecksville UCC's music ensembles:

Joyful Noise Choir (K-5th grade): Thursday January 9 from 5:30-6:15 PM

Adult Choir (high school students welcome): Thurs. Jan. 9 from 7:00-8:30 PM

Recorder/dulcimer/guitar ensemble will be on break during month of Jan.

Youth Percussion Group will meet on an as-needed basis.

Piano lessons will begin on Thurs. Jan. 9.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Debick

## ***The Readings***

### **New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:12-21**

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another—forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Let Christ's peace reign in your hearts since, as members of one body, you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God.

You who are in committed relationships, be submissive to each other. This is your duty in Jesus the Christ. Partners joined by God, love each other. Avoid any bitterness between you. Children, obey those responsible for you, for this is what pleases God the most. To those responsible for children, do not nag them, lest they lose heart.

## **Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23**

After the astrologers had left Herod, the angel of God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command, “Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise, Herod is searching for the child to destroy him.” Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they left that night for Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what God had said through the Prophet: “Out of Egypt I have called my Own.”

After Herod’s death, the angel of God appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt with the command, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and set out for the land of Israel. Those who had designs on the life of the child are dead.”

Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they returned to the land of Israel. Joseph heard, however, that Archelaus had succeeded Herod as Ruler of Judea, and Joseph was afraid to go back there. Instead, because of a warning received by Joseph in a dream, the family went to the region of Galilee. There they settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way, what was said through the prophets was fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

## **Continuing Testament: An excerpt from *The Law of Caring*, by Joan Chittister**

Each of us, whether we have children or not, gives birth to the next generation. We do it by being either wise or foolish, loving or hostile, arrogant or humble in their presence.

No parents are typical. No parents are perfect. We do not honor them for that. We honor them because they did what they could in making us what we are. The rest we were meant to do for ourselves.

Those who have parented us in life are those we carry inside ourselves forever. The goodness they have shown us deserves to be brought out into the light so that others, too, can bask in their ongoing glory—this time in us.

No wonder “honor” is a commandment. Not to honor those who have carried us through any part of life is a sin against the Creator who goes on creating us through the work of others.



To have authority over others does not mean to have control of them. It means simply that we must have love for them. Or, as Garrison Keillor says it: "Parents should sit tall in the saddle and look upon their troops with a noble and benevolent and extremely nearsighted gaze." Don't see too much or you will spoil their opportunity to see it themselves.

Being older than someone else or in a higher position than someone else does not endow us with eternal truth. It simple means that we must learn to listen with a wiser ear. The purpose of "parenting," of companioning the young, the novice, the stranger through the traces of life is not to make them dependent. It is to make them independent. The purpose of parenting is to make ourselves unnecessary. "I am not you anymore." Saundra Sharp wrote, "I am my own collection of gifts and errors."

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Dec. 29</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>

<b>Wednesday, Jan. 1</b>		<b>Happy New Year!</b>
		<b>*Office Closed*</b>

<b>Friday, Jan. 3</b>		<b>*Office Closed*</b>
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<b>Sunday, Jan. 5</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 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

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE**  
**JANUARY 5, 2020**

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul  
Head Usher: Sue Maier  
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler  
Dave & Kathy Pastor  
Acolyte: Olivia Klonowski  
Peace Candle: Natalie Corrado  
Sound: Kevin Smith  
Comns Grtr: Fred Pesek  
Flowers: Dorie Gabor  
Nursery: Marla Corrado  
C.E Teacher: **SEE BULLETIN**  
Counters: Dave Bernard  
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel  
Snacks: Maureen Stanley & Marla  
Corrado  
Clean-up: Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel  
Snow Herder: Joe Wilson



*Bless this year*

with love and light.

Bless this year  
with faith and sight.

Bless this year  
with grace and ease.

Bless this year  
with joy and peace.

*mary davis*



EveryDaySpirit  
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