

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6th, 2020

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." –Benjamin Franklin

Announcements

WELCOME to all guests or visitors worshipping with us today in this Zoom format! We are doing everything we can to keep the service open to all, yet secure. In the eventuality of a disruption of the service, we will email information on how to re-enter the service with a password.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - We encourage you to share this service with your children, as well as take part in the virtual activities with Ms. Mindy at 9:30 (1/2 hour before every service). The link for this can be found in the email you may have received, on our Facebook page and/or on our church website:

<https://brecksvilleucc.orghttps://brecksvilleucc.org/services/childrens-time-online/>

THE PASTOR IS IN! Pastor Allan is available every Tuesday, between 11 am and noon. You can contact him either by mail, email or phone - feel free to call either the church or his cell phone directly. You can also catch him online, by clicking on the same Zoom link that we use for Sunday services. He'd love to hear from you! Here's his contact information:

- BUCC address: **23 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141**
- Email: **buccpastor@sbcglobal.net**
- BUCC Office phone: **(440) 526-4364**
- Pastor Allan's cell phone: **(513) 417-1537**
- Zoom link: **<https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>**

SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER AT THE PRENTISS CENTER FOR AUTISM! We will be purchasing Christmas gifts for students at the Prentiss Center for Autism again this year. BUCC member Darlene Kelly, who is Principal of the center, has identified fifteen students that we can help. You can pledge \$50 to sponsor gifts for an individual student, or contribute any other amount you choose - any funds over the cost of gifts will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards for the families. To simplify logistics during the pandemic, we will have one shopper purchase all the gifts this year. Donations can be mailed to Matt Wolbert at 7465 Brecksville Road, Independence, 44131, or by Venmo to: @Matthew-Wolbert-1 (there's a picture of a sunflower plant with his account). Thank you for sharing the holiday spirit with these families in need!

*We are an Open and Affirming
Congregation, welcoming all of God's
children.*

Whether you are single, married,
divorced, separated,
or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or
sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background,
creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic
circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions,
impairments, or mobility needs,

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!***

Announcements (continued)

THE CHRISTMAS FUND will be received on December 20, 2020. Your donations to this fund provide **direct** financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees, not to programs or institutions. Our retired clergy and lay employees rely on monthly pension supplementation (especially lower income retirees). This fund meets such basic needs as food, utilities, health premium supplementation, help covering prescriptions, and living expenses. The annual Christmas “Thank You” gift reminds these Veterans Of The Cross that they have not been forgotten and that the church is grateful for their service.

Also, emergency grants for active and retired UCC clergy and lay employees are provided, to assist in covering unexpected costs such as large medical expenses or home damage resulting from natural disasters. Please be generous, as these funds are critical for a sustainable quality of life for these Veterans of the Cross!

THE MITTEN TREE: The Mitten Tree is set up in the lower lobby of the church (inside the back door). It would be wonderful if its magical branches could be replenished again this year for our neighbors in need! You are welcome to bring in any new/gently-used (or newly-created!) hats, mittens, gloves and scarves, which will find new homes when we provide hunger meals. The back doors will be open during regular church hours, for those who are able to deliver their items. If you have a contribution but are unable to stop by the church, please reach out to Kate Klonowski at **(216) 534-3498** or **keightykay@gmail.com**, to arrange for a pickup.

SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY: Elizabeth Gadus is collecting socks for the homeless, and will distribute them on the last Sunday of every month (hereby referred to as “Sock It To Me Sunday” until further notice). Although her primary target is St. Herman’s, she’ll also be on the lookout for other shelters in need. Your donations can be placed in the brown quilted bag, located on the bench inside the back entrance. Interested persons may contact Elizabeth by phone call or text at **440-319-6384**, or by email at **elizgadus@gmail.com**. Please take this opportunity to share during this giving season, and thank you in advance!

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB - The Social Justice Book Club will continue to discuss the book *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*, by David Wallace-Wells. The next Zoom meeting is on Thursday 12/10, at 7:00 pm. (Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service.) This meeting will cover Parts 3 & 4: The Climate Kaleidoscope/The Anthropocene Principle: History After Progress to (pp. 218 – 265). Please feel free to contact **Kate Klonowski** at **(216) 534-3498** or **keightykay@gmail.com** with any questions!

PASTOR SEARCH AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Over the next few weeks, the PSNC will be calling everyone from the BUCC and asking for your participation in a brief survey about our Church. Your input is essential in the process of selecting a new full-time pastor. You will be contacted by one of the following members of the committee: Beth Rehling, Ben Rehling, Jon Thompson, Cliffs Cribbs, Joy Garapic, Sherrill Witt and Alan Klonowski. For more information, call Sherrill Witt at 216-244-6916, or Cliff Cribbs at 216-970-6347. Thank you in advance for your insights!

Announcements (continued)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC INVITATION* - An email has gone out to everyone who helped with music last year - if you have not received the message, and wish to share some music over the holidays, please don't hesitate to contact Dave Debick. Dave can help you choose a song if needed, and rehearsal time is also provided as needed. Dave can be reached either by email at **buccmusic@sbcglobal.net**, or by phone at **216-408-7949**. High school students are welcome to participate!

***NOTE: Social distancing is practiced and masks are worn during these rehearsal/recording sessions.**

BUCC MASKS are available! Interested parties can place an order by either calling the BUCC office at **440-526-4364**, or sending your request in an email to **buccoh@sbcglobal.net**. Masks are available by pick up or delivery (no extra charge) – please let Anne know what your preference is when ordering. These masks bear the UCC slogan “Still Speaking,” and our church’s name. Suggested donation is \$10, and all proceeds go toward the BUCC general fund.

WEEKLY COLLECTION is still happening! Please don't forget to send in your pledges to the church by mail or (preferably) PayPal! Check out **BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving** for more info.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be the Zoom Host or the Slide Runner, (both very easy and done from the comfort of your own home!), please reach out to Heidi Spangler at **heidi@heidihoonthego.com**. We'd love to teach you.

COFFEE HOUR! After the service, we welcome all attendees to stay on Zoom to enjoy some time and fellowship with each other. Brew your favorite fairly-traded coffee or tea and a snack and catch up with friends!

*Many thanks
for all the donations
of time, money, and talent
that you provide to the
Church!*

Gathering in God's Presence

Meditation: "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."
—Cornel West

Prelude: *Overture to Messiah* G. F. Handel
(Ensemble not identified online)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnK8V3BZNeM>

Call to Worship:

- Leader (Bridget): Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Let us enter this second Sunday of Advent with peace in our hearts.
- **People (Julie): Through our worship let us find the peace that comes from a clear conscience and a commitment to justice in the world.**
- Leader: There is a peace of God which transcends all understanding—may it guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- **People: May worship relieve our anxieties and calm our fears, for we enter into the presence of the living God!**
- Leader: Let us worship the God who gives us peace!

Hymn of Praise: *The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore*
Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The Baptist shouts on Jordan's shore,
the earth shakes with the mighty roar,
Awake, let lazy sleep now flee:
behold, the voice of prophecy! | 2. The earth and sky and sea now feel
that which their Author will reveal:
The Child now leaping in the womb
as God does human form assume. |
| 3. Clean up your hearts, lay down the way,
for God approaches day by day;
Prepare for such a worthy heir,
for such a guest your house prepare.
(Charles Coffin, 1736; transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993) | |

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

People (Julie): O God our loving Parent, we know that there can be no peace without justice. Too often the voice calling for justice is a voice calling in the wilderness, a voice unheeded. In this Advent season, let us be voices for justice crying out in the highways and byways. Bringing justice is bringing peace. Forgive us when we have been instruments of injustice. Forgive us when our grievances have blinded us to the injustice that we commit. Send Your Spirit to heal our hearts so we can heal the world. We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- **Leader (Bridget):** Peter wrote: "In accordance with God's promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home."
- **People (Julie):** And the Psalmist said, "God will speak peace to God's people, to God's faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts." In Jesus Christ, God has spoken peace to us, and we are forgiven. Amen

Second Sunday of Advent

One Candle is Lit

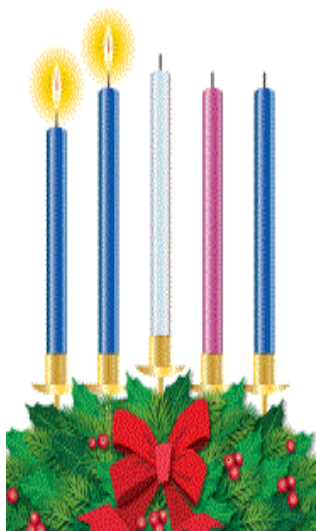
Kirkpatrick

Come quickly, shalom,
teach us how to prepare
For a gift that compels us
with justice to care.

Our spirits are restless
till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for
the Reign of God's Peace.
(Mary Anne Parrott, 1988)

(continued on next page)

Family Leaders: Robin Coyer and Mike Westerberg



Robin: A light shines in the darkness...

Mike: ...and the darkness has not overcome it.

Robin: The long night is past and the new day is dawning.

Mike: The morning of His birth moves through to the morning of His resurrection.

Robin: As the clouds reflect the sun's light on the earth before the sun has risen above the horizon...

Mike: ...let us reflect Christ's light on the world before He appears again.

Robin: The time of His appearing is nearer now than when we first believed.

Mike: This is the hope of the world; love and grace will triumph in Jesus the Christ!

The Candle of Peace is Lit

Readings

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people

My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and He rules with a mighty arm. See, His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him. He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young.

Readings (continued)

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1: 1-8

A voice in the wilderness

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way— a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the One more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Contemporary Lesson

The Gulag Archipelago, by Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn

"In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousand fold in the future. When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations."

Musical Offering:

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Bancroft

Diane Gressley, vocalist

Sermon:

Justice and Peace

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

1. Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and
love and joy.
3. Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel; your grace and love in me reveal.
(Georg Weissel, 1641; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Friends and family of Betty Gifford, Lenore Harris, Susan Renovetz, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Joanne Cook, Sheila Day (friend of the Sniders), Joanne K. and Jim C. (friends of Ed & June Puwal), Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Suerick (niece of Kathy Smith), Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.

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.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation:

Leader (Bridget): From our first breath to our last breath, God calls on us to wipe away the tears of the hurting, to offer comfort to the afflicted, to help those in need. Let us present our gifts and offerings, and the breath in our lungs, to breathe peace and justice to this world.

BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving

Offertory Hymn:

**We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication:

People (Julie): For You, O God. For You we do this. For You we make these offerings. For You we live this life of striving for justice and peace. For You we live. Accept these gifts from us. Use them to help others, for You and Your name's glory. Amen

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup* Berthier

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

(sing twice)

(The Taizé Community, 1983)

- The Thanksgiving
- Words of Institution
- Prayer of Consecration
- The Invitation
- Receiving the Bread and Cup

People (Julie): By Your Spirit's power we have received Your presence in the bread and the wine we have shared this day. May Your presence mean spiritual power in our lives to bring peace within us and peace without. Amen

Hymn of Departure: *We Hail You God's Anointed* German tune, 1784

1. We hail you God's anointed, the long-awaited One!
Hail in the time appointed, your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2. You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
and joy and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

(continued)

We Hail You God's Anointed (continued)

3. The wise shall bow before you and gold and incense bring;
 all nations shall adore you, and praise all peoples sing;
 To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows be said,
 your realm is still increasing, with you, O Christ, as head.
 (James Montgomery, 1821; alt.)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World:

Circle of Community

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.

Benediction

Postlude:

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Schwartz

David Haskell, vocalist

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuUI522_8jQ

Special Thanks

December 6, 2020

Lay Reader	Bridget Sproul
Responder	Julie Bernard
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	David Pastor

December 13, 2020

Lay Reader	David Ritchey
Responder	Kathy Smith
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	Jim Duffy

Thank You for Joining Us!

