

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*



"I went down to
the river,
I set down on
the bank.
I tried to think
but couldn't,
So I jumped in
and sank."

– "Life is Fine", by
Langston Hughes

First Sunday in Advent, November 28th, 2021 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• Allan Lane

***Director of
Music***

• David Debick

***Financial
Secretary***

• Joy Garapic

Office Manager

• Anne Melfo

Ministers – All of Our Members

Affirmation of Welcome

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!



- *Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.*
- *Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.*

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

First Sunday in Advent, November 28th, 2021

Meditation Music

"When the water holes were dry, people sought to drink at the mirage."

—Evelyn Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited*

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

Parry

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: When our dreams are battered, O God, we come to you for hope.
- **People: We have so many questions, so little clarity in difficult times.**
- Leader: Yet when we are near you, sometimes we see more clearly.
Sometimes, in the midst of your love, it seems like it could all make sense one day.
- **People: Let us come to God for hope as the season of Advent begins.
Come, let us worship God!**

Hymn of Praise

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#116, v. 1-3

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go. **(Refrain)**

3. O come, O come, O Adonai, who came to all on Sinai high,
And from its peak a single law proclaimed in majesty and awe. **(Refrain)**

(Music: Melody from a 15th century French "Processional"; text: based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers)

* Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]

We're traveling a hard road, O God, all of us. That guy who cut us off, and the woman who was rude to us: hard road. The kids who were loud when we wanted quiet, and the parents who let them make too much noise: hard road. The woman who wouldn't help us and the man with the short temper: hard road. Maybe we were those people this week, the cutters off and the short tempers, the overwhelmed parents and the overextended employees: hard road. Human life grinding rough edges up against rough edges. Living on the verge of anger and annoyance; not having much patience, and definitely not showing love. We're traveling a hard road, O God. Have mercy on us - all of us. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

* Words of Assurance:

- Leader: St. Peter wrote: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."
- People: We love and forgive each other because God first loved and forgave us through Jesus Christ. In Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God for this good news! Amen

Song of Praise:

*Glory, glory, glory –
Glory to God in the highest! (2X's)*

Pablo Sosa, 1988

And on earth be peace to all people,

First Sunday of Advent

One Candle is Lit

"Come surely, Lord Jesus,
As dawn follows night,

Our hearts long to greet You, as roses, the light.
Salvation draws near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the Hope of the age."

(Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895; text: Mary Anne Parrott, 1988)



The Candle of Hope is Lit



God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 *God will fulfill God's promise*

Second Reading (Allan): Luke 21: 25-36 *More scary stuff!*

Contemporary Reading: *"The Thing Is,"* by Ellen Bass

Anthem

Awaken Us, O Lord

Hayes

*No moonlight in the trees, no starlight on the streams,
no nights as black as these have ever filled our dreams.*

*Shrouded with despair and covered up in tears,
the cloaks of grief we wear have weighed us down for years.*

***Refrain: Awaken us, O Lord, to a brighter day,
dawning of new hope, dispersing fears away.***

A candle for the lost, a beacon in the night. / Send Immanuel, send to us Your light.

*The humble and the meek, the broken and the blind,
the feeble and the weak are praying for a sign.*

*Come and now accomplish Your righteous sovereign plan.
Bring to us Your promise, show us Lord, Your hand! **(Refrain)**
Kyrie eleison. (Translation: Lord, have mercy.)*

John Parker, 2006

Sermon

I Dreamed A Dream

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:

Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

#112

1. Keep awake, be always ready, God's time approaches sure and steady,
God's strength will keep your heart from blame.

Clouds, the Spirit's light concealing, disperse, God's purest light revealing;
creation will its Sovereign name.

Dry branches burst forth green, God's advent signs are seen: Hallelujah!
Christ's judgment won, God's will be done; God's new dominion thus begun.

2. Rise and shine for One is coming whose love will quench all nature's thirsting
to be made whole forever more.

On that day to end all weeping, death's sword transformed to tools of reaping,
the God of might will mercy pour.

Incarnate, God appears embracing all our tears: Hallelujah!
God's majesty eternally revealed to set the cosmos free.

(Music: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; text: Arthur G. Clyde, 1993)

The Church at Prayer

Pat Rehm, Suzanne Patrick, Fred Pesek, George Snider, David Pastor, Peg Duffy, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, Sandra Lane, Joanne Cook, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jim C., Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Jon Thompson, Kathy Smith, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), "Edna House", 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: God invites us to share in the work God is doing in the world. On this Sunday of hope, let us give so that others may have hope in the midst of their despair. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God.

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: [Unison]**

There are many who dream in our world. They dream of enough to eat and a warm place to stay on a cold night. They dream of a friend who accepts them when they come out, and a person with a kind word when they are in despair. May these offerings and our faithfulness to you be the way you make their dreams come true, O God. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

#122

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.
 2. Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.
 3. Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.
 4. By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
By your all-sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.
- (Music: melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; text: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.)

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

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 score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

† **Benediction**

Postlude *Comfort, Comfort, O My People* Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

WISHING YOU A
BLESSED AND HEALTHY
WEEK AHEAD!

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go and thank you for coming!
- **FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are dedicated by Jim & Peg Duffy, in gratitude for "all good gifts around us".
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – There will be a Congregational Meeting next Sunday, December 5th, immediately following the service. We will be reviewing the preliminary budget for 2022 and also approving some updates to our Constitution. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Thank you.
- **SNOW HERDERS** – The Facilities Ministry is asking for volunteers to sign up on Breeze to be Snow Herders. Snow Herders will be responsible for clearing snow and applying ice melt on the ramp on the west side of the church and the back entrance to the church. Snow shovels and ice melt will be located at the ramp entrance and the back doors. Snow herders will be needed each Sunday, starting on December 5 thru April 3. Thanks in advance to all willing to volunteer!
- **GET READY FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR!** – We will resume Fellowship Hour in all its glory starting On Sunday, December 5th, after the Congregational Meeting. In order for this to be successful, we need volunteers to help. The jobs are posted in Breeze for signups, descriptions are below:
 - **Setup/Serve:** Two to three people who arrive by 9:30 to set up downstairs. This includes putting out the coffee/tea cart and any other beverages, setting out the snacks, plates, etc, and generally making sure that Fellowship Hall is ready before the service starts. They will also help out as needed with serving, during coffee hour. Detailed directions will be provided in the kitchen.
 - **Snacks:** Two to three people who provide snacks for the Fellowship/Coffee Hour. This can include cookies, chips, pastry, fruit, etc. - generally enough for 50 people. You don't have to attend the service to provide the snacks, as they can be delivered during regular office hours the week before.
 - **Cleanup:** Two people who stay through the end of Fellowship/Coffee hour to clean up and store any leftovers, clean and put away the beverage service equipment, and ensure that Fellowship Hall is left ready for the next event.
- **SUMMER PEACE AND JUSTICE PILGRIMAGE** – Living Waters Association is offering an event entitled "In the Footsteps of the Civil Rights Movement: An Intergenerational Pilgrimage," from June 14th through the 20th, 2022. Among the sites visited will be Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Southern Poverty Law Center, Rosa Parks Museum, National Voting Rights Museum, Edmund Pettus Bridge, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and 16th Street Baptist Church. Space is limited to 25 people, and a \$300 deposit is required by 1/1/2022 to hold your place. For more details, please see the flyer hanging on the bulletin board in the lobby.

Readings

First Reading

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

God will fulfill God's promise

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior."

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Luke 21: 25-36

More scary stuff!

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

"Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Readings (continued)

Contemporary Reading

“*The Thing Is*,” by Ellen Bass

“to love life, to love it even
when you have no stomach for it
and everything you’ve held dear
crumbles like burnt paper in your hands,
your throat filled with the silt of it.
When grief sits with you, its tropical heat
thickening the air heavy as water
more fit for gills than lungs;
when grief weights you like your own flesh
only more of it, an obesity of grief,
you think, *How can a body withstand this?*
Then you hold life like a face
between your palms, a plain face,
no charming smile, no violet eyes,
and you say, yes, I will take you,
I will love you, again.”



Special Thanks:

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Heidi Spangler
Ushers: Dorie Gabor
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Evie Novak
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Julie Bernard

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Jane Cribbs
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: ***Volunteer Needed***
Set Up/Serve: Sue Maier
Clean Up: ***Volunteer Needed***
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***



*PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE FOR THE
POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEET*



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH POINSETTIAS IN OUR SANCTUARY

Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Christmas with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office or one of the Ushers.

DEADLINE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12



I Enclose \$12.00_____ or other_____ for Poinsettias

In Memory _____ or Honor _____ or _____

Of: _____

Your Name:

*****PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP YOUR
POINSETTIA OR LEAVE IT HERE FOR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS*****

I WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS _____