



# 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***

*"If everyone  
demanded  
peace instead  
of another  
television set,  
then there'd be  
peace."*

—John Lennon



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**Second Sunday in Advent, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

# Second Sunday in Advent, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Meditation Music

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you." —St. Augustine of Hippo, ***The Confessions***

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

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

### **Prelude**

#### ***KINGSFOLD***

Melody from English Country Songs, 1893

*"When people wander far from God, forget to share their bread,  
they find their wealth an empty thing, their spirits are not fed.  
For only just and tender love the hungry soul will stay.  
And so God's prophets echo still, 'Be blest; prepare the way!'"*  
*Text: Kathryn Galloway (b. 1952)*

### **Bearing the Light of Peace**

### **Bearing the Light of Christ**

### **\* Call to Worship:**

- Leader: Like a river finding its home in the sea, people find their home in God in worship.
- **People: Like a bird returning to its nest after a long migration, so the soul finds peace when it settles in God's loving acceptance.**
- Leader: At the end of darkness, there is light. At the end of exile, there is homecoming. At the end of silence, there is sound.
- **People: Through worship, God offers us light, and homecoming, and the sounds of salvation. Come, let us be embraced by God in our worship. Let us worship God!**

5. O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide your heavenly home;  
Make safe the path to endless day,  
to hell's destruction close the way.

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

6. O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
Love stir within the womb of night,  
and death's own shadows put to flight. **(Refrain)**

7. O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **(Refrain)**

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

**\* Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]**

What is wrong with the world, O God? Isn't it that people have no patience with the imperfections of others? Isn't it that people put their own comfort ahead of a livable planet? Isn't it that people are afraid that if they don't have too much, they won't have enough? Isn't it that people are too ready to exploit others? Not us, of course, but people, other people. Or is the problem also in us, that we don't want to see our own part in what is wrong with the world? Do we close our eyes to injustice, so when we don't act, we can say it's because we did not know? Whatever it is, we know that you sent Jesus to help us to see it, and to fix it. We know that the answer involves loving you and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Help us do that. We confess we're not there yet. Forgive us, and get us there, in Jesus our Savior we pray. Amen

**\* Words of Assurance:**

- Leader: Paul the Apostle wrote to the Romans: "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."
- People: **Forgiveness is the gift of God to us, through the love of Jesus. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God for this gift in grace! Amen**



### ***One Candle is Lit***

v. 2

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.

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

### **Family Leader: Kate Lane**

A light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. The long night is past and the new day is dawning. The morning of His birth moves through to the morning of His resurrection. As the clouds reflect the sun's light on the earth, before the sun has risen above the horizon, let us reflect Christ's light on the world before He appears again. The time of His appearing is nearer now than when we first believed. This is the hope of the world; love and grace will triumph in Jesus the Christ!

✧ The Candle of Peace is Lit ✧



# ***God Is Still Speaking***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4**    *Prepare the way*

**Second Reading (Allan): Luke 3: 1-6**    *This time, this place*

**Contemporary Reading: "I like you",** by Fred Rogers

**Anthem**

***Let the Valleys Be Raised***

Schutte

Craig Ramsey, guitar

*Antiphon: Let the valleys be raised and the mountains made low.*

*Every meadow and field overturn.*

*Make the pathway straight and the highway run smooth  
for the coming of God in our day.*

1. *God has come to all people as was promised of old.  
God has raised up a Savior in the sight of us all. (Antiphon)*

2. *You, little child, go before Him like the prophets of old,  
bringing news of His coming by the mercy of God. (Antiphon)*

3. *God has come like the morning on the darkness of night,  
as a light to the people, like the breaking of day. (Antiphon)*

*(Text by Dan Schutte, based on Isaiah 40:3-5, Luke 1:68-79)*

**Sermon**

***What Happened to Baby Jesus?***

Pastor Allan Lane

**Hymn of Reflection:    *The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore*    #115, v. 1-3, 5**

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.

5. Your hands extend, our pain embrace, lift up the prostrate, show your face;  
Though we in part your beauty know, O blossom forth, your splendor show.

*(Music: Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690; text: Charles Coffin, 1736)*

## ***The Church at Prayer***

Pat Rehm, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Allison Colbert, Fred Pesek, George Snider, 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: Giving is one of the best ways to change the lives of others. It’s also one of the best ways to change yourself. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God, so that God may change lives!

**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]**

**Generosity can bring peace, both to the giver and to the receiver. May our generosity today lead to a small part of the peace of Christ becoming the peace of the world. Amen**

## ***Holy Communion***

**Communion Hymn: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***

#345, v. 1-2

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in the hand,  
Christ our God to earth descending, our full homage to demand.

2. Monarch great, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth Christ stood,  
Lord of all, in human vesture--in the body and the blood--  
Christ will give to all the faithful bread of life for heavenly food.

(Music: 17th century French carol melody; text: from the Liturgy of St. James, 4th century;  
transl. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; alt.)



† **The Invitation**

† **Prayer of Consecration**

† **Words of Institution**

† **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving: [Unison]**

We thank you, Jesus, for making your presence known to us this day,  
through the bread and the wine. Keep our eyes open to see you in the world,  
and help us to use this time of Advent to make ourselves ready for you.  
Amen



# Going with God's Love

## Hymn of Departure

### *O How Shall I Receive You*

#102

1. O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,  
blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay?  
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light,  
to know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.
2. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.
3. You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and good-will,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when a renewed creation your glory shall display.

(Music: Melchior Teschner, 1615; text: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; 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.

## † Benediction

## Postlude

### *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

Assisted by Percussion Group

Talbot

## **BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS**



There is a **Congregational Meeting today**, immediately following the service.



- **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 flower dedication is from Janet and Dan Renovetz, with a reminder that "Life is Good!"
- **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 every Sunday from now thru April 3. Thanks to those who've already signed up, and thanks in advance to all willing to volunteer!
- **THE GIVING TREE** – Support a great kid and family in need this holiday season! OCWM is sponsoring Prentiss Autism Center (Positive Education Program), in the giving of special gifts to our dear students who we've supported many years in the past. Again, since we are still in the midst of pandemic limitations, we are bypassing hanging ornaments and will instead be purchasing gifts for the students on your behalf. While it's not as much fun as picking out and wrapping the gifts yourselves, we ask that you make any cash/check monetary donations to: **BUCC (attn: Giving Tree)**. You may also send your donation electronically, by logging into your PayPal account and sending money to: **BUCCpay@gmail.com**, using the "**Friends and Family**" option - this way, your donation will come directly from your bank and there is no PayPal fee. Please remember to mention that it's for the Giving Tree!

**(continued on next page)**

## **BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)**

### **THE GIVING TREE CONTACT INFO:**

If you have any questions, please reach out to **Kate Klonowski** (co-chair) at **(216) 534-3498**, or email **keightykay@gmail.com**. We will be purchasing approximately 45 gifts at about \$10-20 apiece, and we will use any leftover donations to purchase grocery cards for the families (this was incredibly appreciated last year!). We ask that all donations be received by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> - Thank you so much!

- **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 14<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

WISHING YOU A  
BLESSED AND HEALTHY  
WEEK AHEAD!

## Readings

### First Reading

**Malachi 3: 1-4** *Prepare the way*

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

### Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

**Luke 3: 1-6** *This time, this place*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

## Readings (continued)

### Contemporary Reading

*"I Like You"*, Fred Rogers

When I say it's you I like, I'm talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed.



# Special Thanks:

## **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:** Julie Bernard  
Heidi Spangler  
**Set Up/Serve:** Sue Maier  
**Clean Up:** Julie Bernard  
Dave Bernard  
**Snow Herder:** Cliff Cribbs

## **DECEMBER 12, 2021**

**Head Usher:** Jon Thompson  
**Ushers:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Jim Duffy  
**Greeter:** Peg Duffy  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Jon Thompson  
**Acolyte:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Peace Candle:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**A/V Team:** Tim Wallis  
**Flowers:** Tia Began  
**Snack:** Sue Stenzel  
Jon Thompson  
**Set Up/Serve:** Sue Stenzel  
Cliff Stenzel  
**Clean Up:** Sue Stenzel  
Cliff Stenzel  
**Snow Herder:** Dan Stewart



*PLEASE SEE THE 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 this form, tear it off 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:

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***\*\*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 \_\_\_\_\_