



# 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***

"They say  
a person needs  
just three things  
to be truly happy  
in this world;  
someone to love,  
something to do,  
and something to  
hope for."  
—Tom Bodett



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**Third Sunday in Advent, December 12<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)**

# Third Sunday in Advent - December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Meditation Music

"Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy." – Thich Nhat Hanh

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

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

### **Prelude**

### ***All Earth Is Waiting***

Taulé

*All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.*

(Text: Alberto Taulé, 1972, alt; transl.: Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987; alt.)

## **Bearing the Light of Peace**

## **Bearing the Light of Christ**

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

- Leader: Like the moment the bride comes through the church doors for her groom to see on their wedding day, joy is best when it is shared.
- **People: We are here to share our joy in Jesus our Savior, in whom we have eternal life. We are the bride of Christ.**
- Leader: Like hugs at the airport and a reunion after a long parting, we rejoice at being together in worship.
- **People: We are prodigal children who have come home to God's joyful embrace. We are the family of God together. Come, let us worship God!**

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.
  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.
  4. O'er every foe victorious, you on your throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blessed:  
The tide of time shall never your covenant remove;  
your name shall stand forever, your changeless name of Love.
- (Music: German Catholic hymnal, 1784; text: James Montgomery, 1821; alt.)*

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

**Joy comes at the end of longing: longing for a baby to arrive, and then the child is in our arms; longing for the test results to come, and then the cancer is gone; longing for a Yes on one knee, and then a ring on a finger. The world was longing for a Savior, to free it from poverty and oppression, to bring reconciliation where there is discord, to grant hope in the face of death. And then you were here, in a manger, a child of joy. We are grateful! But still we have longing. We long for a world where the streets have no homeless people; we long for a world where the climate is stable and healthy; we long for a world where doing right costs less than doing wrong. We don't need another Savior, O God, but we need the one who already came to inspire us to change ourselves and our world, that our longings might be fulfilled. Forgive us, empower us, and make our joy complete. Amen**

## \* Words of Assurance:

- Leader: Psalm 16 speaks to God: “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”
- People: Because we have forgiveness and acceptance from God through Jesus Christ, who is the path of life, joy and pleasure await us forever at God’s right hand! Thanks be to God for this joyful news! Amen



### ***One Candle is Lit*** v.3

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,  
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.  
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

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

**Family Leaders: Melanie Sei and Paul Kuzmin**

**Melanie:** The angel said to the shepherds:

**Paul:** “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

**Melanie:** What was that news, the news that brought great joy? It was that ...

**Paul:** “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.”

**Melanie:** Such news was so joyful that it made the angels sing:

**Paul:** “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among people of good will.”

**Melanie:** The birth of Christ causes people to be filled with joy on earth, and in heaven causes the angels to break into song. Thanks be to God! Amen



The Candle of Joy is Lit



# ***God Is Still Speaking***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-20**    *Rejoice: God has taken away judgments against you!*

**Second Reading (Allan): Luke 3: 7-18**    *What then should we do?*

**Contemporary Reading:** "Disabilities" by Fred Rogers

**Anthem**                      ***My Lord, He Is a Comin' Soon***    Winnen/Cothran, arr. Drennan

*Refrain: My Lord, he is a comin' soon, prepare the way of the Lord;  
get everything ready for that day, prepare the way of the Lord!*

- 1. If you're asleep, it's time to wake up. Awake, O sleeper, the King!  
If you're in the dark, it's time to be lit. Awake, O sleeper, arise! (Refrain)*
- 2. Come, Lord Jesus, come into my heart; prepare the way of the King!  
He is coming, he's coming soon: prepare the way of the King! (Refrain)*

**Sermon**                                      ***What Should We Then Do?***                      Pastor Allan Lane

**Hymn of Reflection:**                      ***Now Bless the God of Israel***                      #110

1. Now bless the God of Israel, who comes in love and power,  
who raises from the royal house deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.
2. Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year;  
And you, my child, shall go before to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.
3. In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One! O worship and adore!

(Music: Traditional English melody, harm. Ralph V. Williams, 1906; text: Ruth Duck, 1985)

## ***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: Christmas morning; wrapping paper ripped off and on the floor; children’s hearts filled with joy as their hands are filled with new toys; parents with a smile as broad as the prairie sky. That is the gift of giving which gives joy to the giver as much as to the getter. We may not ever see the smiles on the faces of the ones who receive our gifts, but we can still feel joy in anticipation of that moment. Let us present our 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]

With the joy of a new baby in our hearts, we dedicate these gifts to you, O Stable-born Savior. May our lives reflect the joy you have given to your people, heaven-bound pilgrims on the journey of life. Amen

## Going with God's Love

### Hymn of Departure *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

#117

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.

4. So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

*(Music: Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789; Georg Weissel, 1641; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.)*

## Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

The musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The first staff has a final note on a whole note, and the second staff has a final note on a whole note with a repeat sign. Chord symbols are placed above and below the staves.

Chord symbols: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

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**

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

McGee

WISHING YOU A  
BLESSED AND HEALTHY  
WEEK AHEAD!

## **BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go and thank you for coming!
  
- **THE GIVING TREE** – Today is the last day to contribute to OCWM’s annual sponsoring of students at Prentiss Autism Center (Positive Education Program). Our goal is 45 gifts at about \$10-20 apiece, and there are a couple ways that you can help! We’re accepting both monetary donations of cash or check (written out to “**BUCC - attn: Giving Tree**”), or online donations via PayPal. If you’re going through PayPal, please send your donation to **BUCCpay@gmail.com** - use the “**Friends and Family**” option to avoid the PayPal fee, and please remember to mention that it’s for the Giving Tree! If you have any questions, please reach out to **Kate Klonowski** at **(216) 534-3498**, or email **keightykay@gmail.com**. Thank you so much!
  
- **LAST-MINUTE MART** – Join us on Saturday, December 18th, in Pilgrim Hall from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm for the resurrection of our annual BUCC winter tradition, where you and your family, friends and fellow community members can purchase a variety of gift items for all the people on your list (or for yourself—we won’t tell!). Each of the vendors have also donated fantastic items that you can win in our raffle! All table and raffle proceeds will go to our friends at the Refugee Response, who support new arrivals to Cleveland. Any questions may be directed to Moderator Heidi Spangler, at **heidi@heidihoonthego.com**. We can’t wait to see you there!
  
- **REMEMBER THE HUNGRY** – As we read in Matthew 25, “Lord, when did we see thee hungry...”, we should not forget those who are in need of assistance with food items, especially now that cold weather is upon us. Please bring food for the hungry and leave it in the basket by the office door. We will see that the items get to those in need, especially with Christmas so near. Thank You.

**(continued on next page)**

## ***BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS*** (continued)

- **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!
  
- **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.

## Readings

### First Reading

**Zephaniah 3: 14-20**      *Rejoice: God has taken away judgments against you!*

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

"I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the Lord.

### Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

**Luke 3: 7-18**      *What then should we do?*

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

*(continued on next page)*

## Readings

### Second Reading (*continued*)

**Luke 3: 7-18**

*What then should we do?*

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

### Contemporary Reading

“Disabilities,” by Fred Rogers

“Part of the problem with the word 'disabilities' is that it immediately suggests an inability to see or hear or walk or do other things that many of us take for granted. But what of people who can't feel? Or talk about their feelings? Or manage their feelings in constructive ways? What of people who aren't able to form close and strong relationships? And people who cannot find fulfillment in their lives, or those who have lost hope, who live in disappointment and bitterness and find in life no joy, no love? These, it seems to me, are the real disabilities.”

# Special Thanks:

## **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:** Annette Pedersen  
Fred Pedersen  
**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

## **DECEMBER 19, 2021**

**Head Usher:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Ushers:** Heidi Spangler  
Jon Thompson  
**Lay Reader:** Sue Stenzel  
**Greeter:** Evelyn Seager  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Jon Thompson  
**Acolyte:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Peace Candle:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Flowers:** *Poinsettias* (JR)  
**Snack:** Marge Culver  
Heidi Spangler  
**Set Up/Serve:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Clean Up:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Snow Herder:** ***Volunteer Needed***



*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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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