

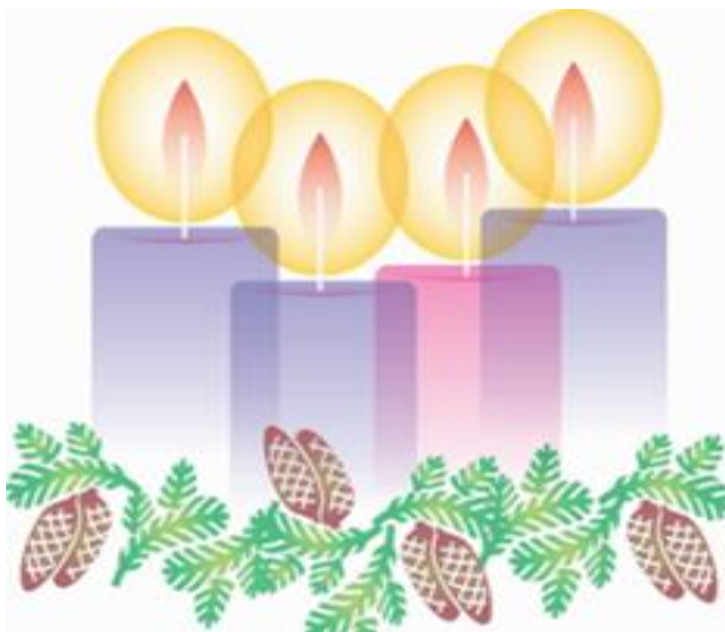


BRECKSVILLE

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***



“The only way
you’re going to
reach places
you’ve never
gone,
is if you trust
God’s direction
to do things
you’ve never
done.”
–Germany Kent

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 19th, 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



Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 19th, 2021

Meditation Music "Without love, our earth is a tomb." – Robert Browning

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Magnificat Primi Toni

Praetorius

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: In love God made a world, made a people, made a commitment to us in Jesus Christ.

People: Love is the most powerful force in existence, for with it we can change the world.

Leader: The Apostle John said, "Whoever does not love, does not know God, for God is love."

People: When the time was right, the love of God became flesh and walked among us. Come, let us worship God, whose love calls forth our love!

* Hymn of Praise

O Come, All Ye Faithful (lyrics below)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; **(Refrain)**

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **(Refrain)**
(Music and text: John Francis Wade, 1743)

* Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]

- inspired by *Living Faith*, a document of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

We bow before the mystery of your love, O God. You created us in love; you nurture us in love; you redeem us in love; you call us to love you and our neighbors, in response to your love. You command us to love your creation and to care for it. You insist that we love and accept ourselves, because you have already loved and accepted us. Love speaks the truth, but is always tempered by kindness. Love demands justice, but is always tempered by mercy. Love helps us to see others as you see them. You have called us to lives of love, O God, for you, for each other, for neighbors and strangers, and even for all creation. Where we have fallen short, forgive us, most loving God. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

* Words of Assurance:

Leader: King David wrote in the Psalms: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions."

People: We know the steadfast love of God for us in Jesus Christ; because of Christ, we know our transgressions have been blotted out according to God's abundant mercy. Thanks be to God! Amen



Lighting the Advent Candle

One Candle is Lit

v.4

4. Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.

One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

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

Family Leader: Janet Renovetz

Let love rule in your hearts and guide your feet. For God is love, and God has shown the way. Let love overflow in its abundance and pour out into a world in need of love. The love of God has been poured out for us, and spills over into the world through the people of God. Let us light the candle of Love.



The Candle of Love is Lit



Youth Anthem

Christmas Is Jesus

Go Kids Music

Joyful Noise: Gabriella and Giuliana Gagliano

*Presents under the tree, jingle bells ring-a-ling, / But I know, oh I know, this I know,
There's more for me, so much more to believe.*

*Carols in harmony, silver lights twink-a-ling, / But I know, oh I know, this I know,
There's more for me, so much more to believe.*

The greatest gift of all cannot be bought or sold, / The reason for it all -- hey!

Refrain: Let it be, let it be, let it be, Merry Christmas!

*Let us see, let us see, let us see, God is with us--Immanuel, God came down,
Christmas is Jesus, Christmas is Jesus!*

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, Christmas is Jesus! (twice)

*Rudolf's red glowing nose, angels made out of snow, / But I know, oh I know, this I know,
There's more for me, so much more to believe. (etc.)*

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a *Breaking: Messiah to be born in Bethlehem!*

Second Reading (Allan): Luke 1: 39-55 *The world on its head*

Contemporary Reading: *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*, by Henri Nouwen

Anthem

Ave Maria

H. W. Howard

*Translation: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

(Text based on a traditional Roman Catholic prayer, Luke 1:42)

Sermon



A World Turned Upside Down

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* (lyrics below)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

(Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; text: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Sandra Lane & Pat Brown, Pat Rehm, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Allison Colbert, Fred Pesek, George Snider, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, 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

[the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to one's theological understanding]

Our Lord's Prayer

...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: The natural reaction of love is to share and to give. In love, God shared God's own self with us in Jesus Christ. In love, let us share what we have from God with God's world. 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]**

If we say that we love God, but do not love our brother or sister, we are simply deceiving ourselves, the Scripture says. But when we show our love in giving, we show our love for God as well. Receive these gifts, O God, as a sign of our love for you and for your world. Amen



Holy Communion

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

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

Love is a gift, and we thank you for these gifts of your love, O God, in the bread and the wine, which are by the Spirit's power the body and blood of Christ for us. Amen

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#154

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior' birth. (Refrain)

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)
(Music and text: Traditional African American spiritual)

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 repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Noël

Adapt. from organ composition by Louis Claude d'Aquin

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!

- **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.

- **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** – Please join us this Friday, 12/24, at 10pm, for prayer, song and candlelight. Bring your own communion to BUCC’s celebration of Jesus’ birth, as we share the gift of true Christmas Spirit!

- **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 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

Micah 5: 2-5a *Breaking: Messiah to be born in Bethlehem!*

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Luke 1: 39-55 *The world on its head*

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

(continued)

Readings

Second Reading (continued)

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

Contemporary Reading

The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming, by Henri Nouwen

The world's love is and always will be conditional. The world says: “Yes, I love you if you are good-looking, intelligent, and wealthy.” I am the prodigal son every time I search for unconditional love where it cannot be found. Whenever I prove to myself and to my world that I do not need God's love, that I can make a life on my own, that I want to be fully independent. The great event on Rembrandt's painting is the end to the great rebellion. I am loved so much that I am free to leave home.



Special Thanks:

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Heidi Spangler Jon Thompson
Lay Reader:	Sue Stenzel
Greeter:	Evelyn Seager
Counters:	Marge Culver <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Peace Candle:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Janet Renovetz & Sue Stenzel
Snack:	Marge Culver Heidi Spangler
Set Up/Serve:	Evie Novak Wes Novak
Clean Up:	Dave Bernard Cliff Stenzel
Snow Herder:	Cliff Cribbs

CHRISTMAS EVE

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Diane Gressley
Greeter:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Counters:	Janet Renovetz <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Peace Candle:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	Janet Renovetz & Sue Stenzel
Snow Herder:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

DECEMBER 26, 2021

Head Usher:	Evie Novak
Ushers:	Kathy Smith Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader:	Jon Thompson
Greeter:	Dave Bernard
Counters:	Marge Culver Dorie Gabor
Acolyte:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Peace Candle:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	Betsey Wilson
Flowers:	Janet Renovetz & Sue Stenzel
Snack:	Dave Bernard Dorie Gabor
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Clean Up:	Dave Bernard Dorie Gabor
Snow Herder:	Dan Stewart



2021 Poinsettia Dedications

Dedicated By:

Julie Bernard & Linda Kriynovich In Memory of Julie, Tony & Lori Gorenc

*Allison Colbert & Gayle Jackson In Memory of Sandra Wibert
In Memory of Donald & Martha Colbert*

Dorie Gabor In Memory of my husband Steven E. Gabor

*Joy Garapic In Memory of William Garapic, loving husband,
father & grandfather*

Diane Gressley In Memory of Evan & Emma Gressley

*Carol Miller & Pat Rehm In Honor of all our Miller and Rehm families
In Hope of reducing violence in our world*

Annette & Fred Pedersen In Memory of Miriam Merleno

Marjorie & Eric Rahnenfueher In Memory of Jan Rahnenfueher

*Pat Rehm & Carol Miller In Memory of Ian Jensen
In Memory of Chase Dornan*

David Ritchey

*Carole & George Snider In Memory of Mahala Snider & Lawrence Snider
In Memory of Elizabeth & Bert Weale*

*The Stella Family In Memory of our parents & grandparents, gone
but not forgotten*

Jon K. Thompson In Memory of my family, gone but not forgotten

*The Wilson Family In Memory of Norrine & John Brownlow
In Memory of Jack Wilson*

*Jill Zedan In Memory of lost family members and friends,
& with great gratitude for my daughter and
grandchildren*



