



# 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***



“Sometimes  
when you lose  
your way, you  
find yourself.”

—Mandy Hale,  
***The Single  
Woman: Life,  
Love and a  
Dash of Sass***

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**First Sunday after Christmas, December 26th, 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)**



# First Sunday after Christmas, December 26th, 2021

## Meditation Music

*"We have to be braver than we think we can be, because God is constantly calling us to be more than we are."* –Madeleine L'Engle

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

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

### **Prelude**

### **Wexford Carol**

*"With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born."*

(Music: Traditional Irish; text: English and Irish traditional)

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

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

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

Leader: O Jesus, though you were born an infant, which is Latin for a person who cannot talk, your birth spoke more to us of God's love than anything else ever could.

**People: Your divine presence among us shows our value and our worth in a universe that threatens to overwhelm us with its size.**

Leader: You put your trust in your human parents before you asked us to put our trust in our divine parent, and in you.

**People: God in Christ has come among us, saying more without words than words could ever say. Come, let us worship God!**

**\* Hymn of Praise      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory***

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the  
newborn King.**

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light: **(Refrain)**
3. Sages, leave your contemplations brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations, you have seen the natal star: **(Refrain)**
4. Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending, here among us shall appear: **(Refrain)**

(Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867; text: James Montgomery, 1816)

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

Usually we come into your presence, O Almighty Lord, but today we celebrate your coming into our presence. Usually we humble ourselves before you, but today we celebrate your humbling yourself for us. We thank you that we were born into a world of comfort you never knew, that we live in freedom you never experienced, that we know a life you never imagined. In all our rich blessings, never let us forget that we serve you; never let us overlook the people who still live lives much more like your life; never let us accept blessings from your hand and refuse to offer blessings from our own hands! In all our riches, let us remember your poverty for our sake. Forgive our forgetfulness, O Lord of heaven, and Servant of earth! Amen

**\* Words of Assurance:**

Leader: St. John wrote: "This is how God showed God's love among us: God sent the one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

People: In Jesus Christ we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Thanks be to God for the gift of God's Son in the world! 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,  
For God loves us all! (2X's)***

# ***God Is Still Speaking***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading:** Colossians 3: 12-17 **How to dress like a Christian**

**Second Reading (Allan):** Luke 2: 41-52 **Home Alone**

**Contemporary Reading (Allan):** "If," by E.E. Cummings

## **Anthem**

### ***Ring Out, Ye Bells!***

Bohemian folk song carol, arr. Kingsley

Assisted by Percussion Group

1. *Ring on, ye joyous Christmas Bells, ring on, ye bells, ring on!*  
*What tale of love your music tells, ring on, ye bells, ring on!*  
*The Christ is born for everyone, 'tis Christmas morn," ring out again!*  
*Refrain: Ring, ring, joyous bells, ring, ye bells, ring out again! (twice)*
2. *Ring on, ye happy Christmas Bells, ring on, ye bells, ring on!*  
*With holy joy the clamour swells, ring on, ye bells, ring on!*  
*In triumph ring and everyone glad tidings bring, ring out again! (Refrain)*
3. *Ring on, ye merry Christmas Bells, ring on, ye bells, ring on!*  
*Your pealing bliss all sadness quells, ring on, ye bells, ring on!*  
*We join the song with loud Amens, for Christ is born, ring out again! (Refrain)*

## **Sermon**

### ***A Precocious Preteen At Passover***

Pastor Allan Lane

## **Hymn of Reflection:**

### ***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem has sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah had foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

(Music: 16th century German; harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609; text: 15th century German, anonymous;  
transl. Theodore Baker, 1894; 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**

### **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 came into the world as a gift for the world. That’s why we give gifts to each other on Christmas: to be imitators of God. Let us continue to imitate God in presenting our gifts and offerings to God this morning.

**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]**

**You changed the world, O God, by coming into the world in Jesus Christ.  
You are still changing the world when the life we live is a life lived in faith in  
your Messiah. Use us, and these offerings to remake the world into a world  
of love and hope. Amen**

# Going with God's Love

## \* Hymn of Departure

### *Dona Nobis Pacem*

Traditional

Translation from Latin: "Grant us peace."

Dona no-bis pa-cem, pacem. Do - na no - bis pa -
   
 8 
  
 cem. Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.
   
 17 
  
 Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

## 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



*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*  
17th century French



## ***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!
- **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

**Colossians 3: 12-17** *How to dress like a Christian*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

**Luke 2: 41-52** *Home Alone*

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

## Readings (continued)

### Contemporary Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

*"If,"* by E.E. Cummings

"If freckles were lovely, and day was night,  
And measles were nice and a lie warn't a lie,  
Life would be delight,--  
But things couldn't go right  
For in such a sad plight  
I wouldn't be I.

If earth was heaven and now was hence,  
And past was present, and false was true,  
There might be some sense  
But I'd be in suspense  
For on such a pretense  
You wouldn't be you.

If fear was plucky, and globes were square,  
And dirt was cleanly and tears were glee  
Things would seem fair,--  
Yet they'd all despair,  
For if here was there  
We wouldn't be we."

# Special Thanks:

## **DECEMBER 26, 2021**

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

## **JANUARY 2, 2021**

**Head Usher:** Jill Zedan  
**Ushers:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Lay Reader:** Cliff Cribbs  
**Greeter:** Joe Began  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Jon Thompson  
**Acolyte:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Peace Candle:** Tia Began  
**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen  
**Flowers:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Snack:** Jill Zedan  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Set Up/Serve:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Clean Up:** Dave Bernard  
Dorie Gabor  
**Snow Herder:** Cliff Cribbs



# 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*

