



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***

"Children see
magic
because they
look for it."

—Christopher
Moore,

***Lamb: The Gospel
According to Biff,
Christ's Childhood
Pal***



Second Sunday after Christmas, January 2nd, 2022 • 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

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2nd, 2022

Meditation Music

"My life has been shaped by the decision two people made over 24 years ago. They decided to adopt a child. They got me, and I got a chance at the kind of life all children deserve." –Karen Fowler, ***Reflections on Motherhood***

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Come, Be Glad!

Caribbean folk melody; harm. C. R. Young, 1989

*"Come, rejoice! Praise God's name! See what God has done!
When full time came to be Christ appeared redeeming;
prophets, priests, martyrs, saints, Jesus' name confessing."*

Words: Daniel B. Merrick, 1978

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

* Call to Worship:

Leader: The Christmas story is about a child being born into the world, but it is also the story of becoming children of God.

People: From ancient times the church has confessed: the Child of God became human, so that humans could become children of God.

Leader: Our relationship to God changed with the coming of the Christ into the world. What we were we are no more, and what we have become is yet to be seen.

People: In worship we build our relationship to God and each other, as part of God's family. Let us worship God!

*** Hymn of Praise**

As with Gladness

1. As with gladness sages bold did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.
2. As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
(Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. W. H. Monk, 1861; text: William C. Dix, 1861; alt.)

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

You have called us your children, O God, born into the family of God by faith, sharing an inheritance with all the saints who confess your name in every age. We rejoice in that relationship with you. But like all children, sometimes we don't listen to our parent's direction very well. And like all siblings, sometimes we squabble with each other. We get in trouble. We face consequences. We need to grow, to change, to learn, to make amends, to reconcile, to be forgiven. Your Word gives us examples of people doing just these things when they met Jesus. We confess that we are just like the people in the Bible: God's people, occasionally screwing up, sometimes bigtime. In our encounter with Jesus in worship today, let us also grow and change, and find reconciliation and forgiveness from his hand. We ask this in his name. Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

Leader: John the Apostle wrote in his first letter: "I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name".

People: In Jesus Christ we are the forgiven children of God! 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,
For God loves us all! (2X's)***



God Is Still Speaking
(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Lesson: John 1: 1-18 *Children of God*

Second Lesson (Allan): Ephesians 1: 3-14 *Adoption as children*

Contemporary Lesson: “Being a Parent” by Jodi Picoult, from ***Handle with Care***

Anthem

Journey of the Magi Basque carol, setting L. Lee Scott
Assisted by Percussion Group

1. *As eastern sages watched the winter night,
A star shone out with radiance clear and bright.
Said they, "A King is born to us, our great delight:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
2. *They journeyed forth to seek this gracious child
With gifts and treasures for the Lord, so mild,
In whom all things in earth and heaven are reconciled.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
3. *The star went on before to guide the way
Until it marked the place where Jesus lay.
Then entered they to see the King and homage pay.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
4. *They bowed in deep devotion to adore
And freely offered all their treasure store.
Let us with them him his praises sing forever more:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
(Text: Para. S. Baring-Gould, 1834-1924; K. Lee Scott)

Sermon

What Happened to Baby Jesus? Pastor Allan Lane

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
 earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. Our God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign;
 In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
 the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
 cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
 But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
 worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
4. What can I offer, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
 If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
 but what can I offer: all my heart.

(Music: Gustav Holst, 1906; text: Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt. 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: For many people, what we give says more about us than what we have. All things belong to God, but what God has given us is what we remember: the Law to guide our moral lives; Jesus to lead us to eternal life; the time we have on earth to build our characters for life with God forever. Let us present our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to God. Amen

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]**

These gifts, O God, say who we are, and whose we are. Receive what we offer as gifts from your children for your children. Amen

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: ***Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread***

#342

1. Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
O Savior, stay with us and spread your table in our heart.
2. Here share with us in love divine, your body and your blood;
That living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.
(Music: Day, *The Whole Booke of Psalms*, 1562; text: James Montgomery, 1825; alt.)



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

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

Families are the people who share meals together. Let the bread and the juice of our communion meal remind us that we are family with you and with each other, O God. Amen

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164

1. Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

2. Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

3. Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

4. Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

(Music: William Walter, 1872; text: Ruth Duck, 1973)

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

God's Love Made Visible!

Dave Brubeck

*"God gave the Son to us to dwell as one of us--
a blessing unto us! His love shall reign!
To him all honor bring, heaven and earth will sing,
praising our Lord and King! His love shall reign!"*
(Words: Iola Brubeck, 1975)

WISHING YOU HEALTH AND JOY IN THE 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!
- **PEW ENVELOPES** are ready for pick up in the Upper Commons. Because so many members are paying online or with direct payments, you may not see an envelope box with your name on it. If you would like a box, please contact **Joy Garapic** at **440-526-4364**.
- **EMAIL SCAM ALERT!** Unfortunately, someone pretending to be Pastor Allan has again sent emails to a few of our members, containing a request for money or a personal reply. Please always remember that Allan would NEVER request money in an email or a text. It appears that someone made up a new address - that is completely unconnected from our church – that looks like Pastor Allan's email, but most assuredly is not. Please **DO NOT REPLY** to these emails, as it's best to report them as "spam" (or "phishing", depending on your email provider), and then delete them. We are taking every measure to prevent this from continuing. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact **Anne** at **440-526-4364** - and thank you for your patience!
- **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.

****PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS BY WEDNESDAY AT NOON****

Readings

First Lesson

John 1: 1-18 *Children of God*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Creator, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

(continued on next page)

Readings (*continued*)

Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

Ephesians 1: 3-14 *Adoption as children*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Contemporary Lesson

“Being a Parent” by Jodi Picoult, from ***Handle with Care***

Was it the act of giving birth that made you a mother? Did you lose that label when you relinquished your child? If people were measured by their deeds, on the one hand, I had a woman who had chosen to give me up; on the other, I had a woman who'd sat up with me at night when I was sick as a child, who'd cried with me over boyfriends, who'd clapped fiercely at my law school graduation. Which acts made you more of a mother?

Both, I realized. Being a parent wasn't just about bearing a child. It was about bearing witness to its life.

Special Thanks:

JANUARY 2, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Joe Began
Counters: Marge Culver
Jon Thompson
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: Tia Began
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Janet Renovetz &
Sue Stenzel
Snack: Jill Zedan
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteer Needed***
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Dave Bernard
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: Cliff Cribbs

JANUARY 9, 2022

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