



# 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*

“Jesus knows  
well the pain  
of not being  
welcomed and  
how hard it is  
not to have  
a place to lay  
one's head.  
May our hearts  
not be closed  
as they were  
in the homes  
of Bethlehem.”

- Pope Francis



**Sunday after Christmas, January 1st, 2023 • 10:00 AM**

**Pastor**

• John King

**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)**

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
First Sunday after Christmas Day

Prelude

*Il Est Né (He Is Born)*

French Traditional

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

---

*"The very location and circumstance of Christ's birth was a symbol and sign of God's solidarity with the socially oppressed and outcast."*

– Drew G.I. Hart, *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*

---

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**\* Call to Worship:**

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**All: Like the magi of old, we follow the light and it leads us to the Holy One.**

One: We remember God's wonder and promise, and we gather in reverence.

**All: We have come not merely to receive, but to share!**

One: Lift up your eyes and look around; God's people now gather together, to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

**All: The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here: Come, let us gather in prayer!**

Hymn of Praise

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

#126

**\* Invocation [Unison]**

God of wonder and mystery, today we remember how you surprise us in every age. Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into emptiness, you bring abundance; into the cold, you bring warmth. In gentle human form, you bring the greatest power we have known. Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us, and move us to joyful reverence of your mystery and wonder.

**\* Words of Assurance**

**\* Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glory, glory, glory –  
glory to God in the highest! (2X's)

And on earth be peace to all people,  
for God loves us all! (2X's)

***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading **Ephesians 3:1-12 (NRSVUE)**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 2:1-23 (The Inclusive Bible)**

Continuing Testament by Howard Thurman



**Time With Young Worshippers**



**Musical Offering**

***A Strange Way to Save the World***

Clark/Harris/Koch

Allison Colbert, alto

1. *I'm sure he must have been surprised at where this road had taken him.  
'Cause never in a million lives would he have dreamed of Bethlehem.  
And, standing at the manger, he saw with his own eyes  
the message from the angel come to life.  
And Joseph said,*

*Refrain: "Why me? I'm just a simple man of trade.  
Why Him with all the rulers in the world?  
Why here inside this stable filled with hay?  
Why her? She's just an ordinary girl."*

*Now I'm not one to second guess what angels have to say,  
but this is such a strange way to save the world.*

2. *To think of how it could have been if Jesus had come as He deserved.  
There would have been no Bethlehem, no lowly shepherds at His birth.  
But Joseph knew the reason love had to reach so far.  
And, as he held the Savior in his arms, he must have thought,*

*(Refrain) Oh---Now I'm not one to second guess what angels have to say,  
but this is such a strange way to save the world,  
this is such a strange way, such a strange way, etc.*

(Music and Words by Dave Clark, Mark Harris and Don Koch; © 1993 Paragon Music, John T. Benson Publishing Co., Point Clear Music,  
First Verse Music, all admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc. and A-Knack-For-This Music, ASCAP, admin. by ICG)

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

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

**#127**

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

Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), friends of Bill Toneff, family and friends of Lenore Harris, Suzanne Patrick, George Snider, Dorie Gabor, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Phyllis Hassler, Jeanne Cowden, Rose Kaval, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Betty Kaul, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Jon Thompson, 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: [UNISON]**

...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**

#### **\* 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]**

God of every good gift, here we present our offerings. There are gifts that we give in response to your Spirit, which we remember in joyful song and holy story, in prayer and silence. And there are other gifts, not physically on this table but held in the altar of our hearts. God, we offer them all to you. We ask your blessing on all that we give, so that your loving care reaches into us and out to all the world, ever more deeply and gracefully. We ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.



Communion Hymn

*I Come with Joy*

#349

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

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

## ***Going with God's Love***

Hymn of Departure

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

#154



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

**\* Circle of Community**

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah**. After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.

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

*Sing a Song of Gladness and Cheer*

Bricusse

“Let God grant  
what is In Your Heart  
and fulfill  
all your plans.”

~ Psalm 20:4

## ***Announcements***

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are from Janet & Dan Renovetz, "In celebration of our daughter Sue's birthday."

**MITTEN TREE** – Have you noticed the mitten tree in the narthex? The hats, mittens, and ear warmers have been removed by the elves in the black forest and taken to a hunger center for distribution to those who do not have them. And what about those who may be overlooked?

BUCC members and friends, as they always so faithfully do, will see to it that more hats, mittens, and ear warmers will replace them on the tree for distribution to those who will need them in the cold days to come. God moves in wonderful mysterious ways. – The Chandlers (aka, the elves)

**UNHANGING THE GREENS** – It takes much less time to take down our beautiful Christmas decorations, but it's also a little bit of a letdown. Let's lean on each other as we DE-decorate the church! Please join us (especially those with muscle) after worship on **Sunday, January 8**. As always, your help is much appreciated! – Betsey Wilson

**SUNDAY FLOWERS MINISTRY** – Flowers in the chancel area add a special touch to our Sunday morning worship that we all enjoy. A big thank you to those who have volunteered to bring them in . . . and a welcome to anyone who would like to do so. We have several vases in the flower room that can be used, and you will be reimbursed for the cost of the flowers. The grocery stores in the area have a nice selection and some come from home gardens. If you are interested in helping out a few times during the year, please talk to or call anyone in the flower ministry. Thank you! – Janet Renovetz

**MUSIC** – If you'd like to hear more contemporary music at Sunday services, please feel free to contact Dave Debick with song titles or names of performers you're interested in. His church email is: [buccmusic23@gmail.com](mailto:buccmusic23@gmail.com) . We can't promise that sheet music will be available for every request, but your input/feedback is always welcome and appreciated.

***Note: The church has voicemail again!***



## Readings

### First Reading

#### **Ephesians 3:1-12 (NRSVUE)**

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of God's power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that God has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in God. I pray, therefore, that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

### Gospel Reading

#### ***Matthew 2:1-23 (The Inclusive Bible)***

THIS IS THE FAMILY RECORD OF JESUS THE CHRIST, descendant of David, descendant of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac; Isaac begot Jacob; Jacob begot Judah and his sisters and brothers; Tamar and Judah begot Perez and Zerah; Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram; Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon; Nahshon begot Salmon; Rahab and Salmon begot Boaz; Ruth and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse; and Jesse begot David, the ruler.

(continued)

# Readings

## Gospel Reading (continued)

Bathsheba—who had been the wife of Uriah—and David begot Solomon; Solomon begot Rehoboam; Rehoboam begot Abijah; Abijah begot Asa; Asa begot Jehoshaphat; Jehoshaphat begot Joram; Joram begot Uzziah; Uzziah begot Jotham; Jotham begot Ahaz; Ahaz begot Hezekiah; Hezekiah begot Manasseh; Manasseh begot Amon; Amon begot Josiah; Josiah begot Jeconiah and his sisters and brothers at the time of the Babylonian captivity.

After the Babylonian captivity, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel; Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel; Zerubbabel begot Abiud; Abiud begot Eliakim; Eliakim begot Azor; Azor begot Zadok; Zadok begot Achim; Achim begot Eliud; Eliud begot Eleazar; Eleazar begot Matthan; Matthan begot Jacob; Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary. And from her Jesus was born. Thus there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian captivity, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian captivity to the Messiah.

## Continuing Testament – From *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*, by Howard Thurman

### The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds  
are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:*

*to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.*

# Special Thanks:

## January 1, 2023

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***  
Ushers: Evelyn Seager  
Sue Stenzel  
Lay Reader: Michelle Rogers  
Greeter: Dave Bernard  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***  
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***  
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson  
Flowers: Janet Renovetz  
Snack: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Set Up/Serve: Alison Colbert  
***Volunteer Needed***  
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***

## January 8, 2023

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson  
Ushers: Dave Bernard  
Evelyn Seager  
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Greeter: Rose Kaval  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***  
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***  
A/V Team: David Pastor  
Flowers: ***Volunteer Needed***  
Snack: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_