



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*"God dreams for us  
today.  
Today, at this  
moment,  
God has an image  
and hope for what  
we are becoming.*

*We should not let  
God dream alone."*

*- Dorothy Soelle*



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 1st, 2024 • 10:00 AM**

**Pastor**  
• John King

**Director of Music**  
• David Debick

**Financial Secretary**  
• Joy Garapic

**Administrative Assistant**  
Miranda Lacefield

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:**

**Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm**

**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 December 1st, 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude      Redeemer of the Nations, Come      Plainsong, Mode 1**

**Assisted by Percussion Group**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Meditation**

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"Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace."

- Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

#### **Call to Prayer:**

**One:**    *Today we begin the season of Advent.  
We come into God's presence in hopeful anticipation,  
We await the coming of the Son of God.*

**Many:**   ***The heavens declare the Glory of God.  
The Sun, the Moon and the stars announce God's glory!***

#### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**One:**    *This is the day we begin our journey to the Child Jesus, His  
Mother and the manger.*

**All:**     ***May we kindle God's light together as we journey on.***

**One:**    *It is a journey shrouded in a fading sun and a growing  
uncertainty as the world turns cold. And still we journey.*

**All:**     ***May we kindle God's light together as we journey on.***

**One:**    *We journey because we are drawn to God's light at the end:  
it is God's promise, borne into our lives.*

**All:**     ***May we kindle God's light together as we journey on***

**One:**    *This is the day we begin our journey.*

**All:**     ***May we kindle God's light within us, together, as we journey  
on. Amen.***

One: *We light this candle in HOPE. [The candle is lit.]*

One: *We bring this light of hope with us, together, on this journey. Hope comes from the Child and our hope is dedicated to the Child lying in a manger. Seeking goodness only, for our neighbors and for ourselves, may we kindle God's light of hope within us.*

**The first verse of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*

One: Let us pray together.

**All: Good and gracious God, God of darkness and light, God of hope and fear, help us take one step closer to you, toward the joy of unity with you. In this candle light, show us that the power of hope silences doubts and fears. Take this light, small but mighty, and magnify it within us until our hope chases away all shadows around our church, our community, our nations and our world. Amen.**

**Song of Praise: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn #107**

**Readings**

**(See back of bulletin for complete readings)**

**First Reading: - James 5:7-11 (NRSV)**

**Gospel Reading: - Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament: Robert F. Kennedy -Delivered on April 4, 1968, in Indianapolis.**



Time with  
Young  
Worshipers



## **Anthem**

### **You Will Set Us Free    Powell**

*Refrain: Savior, Adonai, hear the captives' plea:*

*Lead us, ransom us, You are David's key; you will set us free.*

*1. Prophets have long foretold one who would appear:*

*Light to the waiting world, conqueror of fear. (Refrain)*

*2. Guide us through desert lands where we shall be found,*

*Searching the wilderness, seeking holy ground. (Refrain)*

*3. Show us your rising star, lantern in the night.*

*Hasten the break of dawn, herald of your light. (Refrain)*

*4. Come, then, O Prince of Peace, seal the Maker's vow.*

*You are Emmanuel, God be with us now. (Refrain)*

*(Words and Music by Kathy Powell; Copyright © 1999 by GIA Publications, Inc.)*

## **Sermon: "The Farmer Waits" by Rev. John King**

### **Hymn of Reflection            Keep Awake, Be Always Ready    #112**

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

Gayle & Allison Colbert, the family and friends of Dassie Matsuoka, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Rose Kaval, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Sheila Day, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Kathleen Stewart, Ann Klonowski, "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

*(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)*

#### **Prayers of the Church**

#### **Silent Meditation**

#### **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***

### **\* Invitation to the Offering**

**\* Doxology: [UNISON]      Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

### **\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION: [UNISON]**

**God, whose faithfulness exceeds the limits of the earth,  
accept these gifts of our hearts and hands.  
May they be multiplied and magnified  
as the living presence of Christ's peace in the world. Amen.**

## **Communion**

**At Brecksville UCC, ALL are welcome to receive communion.  
No exceptions. No Kidding.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion.**

**We give thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us at your table  
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us  
forth into the world  
in courage and peace,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our  
Savior. Amen.**

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure    O Come, O Come, Emmanuel    #116 v. 1-3

### 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.

#### \* Circle of Community (continued)



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 first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Postlude    Fugue Sur Les Jeux D'anches (Fugue on the reeds)    Couperin



## Readings

### **First Reading James 5:7-11 (NRSV) “The Patience and Perseverance of the Farmer”**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV) “The Coming of the Son of Humanity”**

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Humanity coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the reign of God is near.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.



Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly,

like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Humanity."

**Continuing Testament** – Robert F. Kennedy -Delivered on April 4, 1968, in Indianapolis.

Just minutes after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Robert F. Kennedy gave an impromptu speech, in which he broke the news to the crowd. His call for unity resonates to this day.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm only going to talk to you just for a minute or so this evening, because I have some -- some very sad news for all of you ... sad news for all of our fellow citizens, and people who love peace all over the world; and that is that Martin Luther King was shot and was killed tonight in Memphis, Tennessee.

Martin Luther King dedicated his life to love and to justice between fellow human beings. He died in the cause of that effort. In this difficult day, in this difficult time for the United States, it's perhaps well to ask what kind of a nation we are and what direction we want to move in. For those of you who are black -- considering the evidence evidently is that there were white people who were responsible -- you can be filled with bitterness, and with hatred, and a desire for revenge.

We can move in that direction as a country, in greater polarization -- black people amongst blacks, and white amongst whites, filled with hatred toward one another. Or we can make an effort, as Martin Luther King did, to understand, and to comprehend, and replace that violence, that stain of bloodshed that has spread across our land, with an effort to understand, compassion, and love.

For those of you who are black and are tempted to fill with -- be filled with hatred and mistrust of the injustice of such an act, against all white people,

I would only say that I can also feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling. I had a member of my family killed, but he was killed by a white man.

But we have to make an effort in the United States. We have to make an effort to understand, to get beyond, or go beyond these rather difficult times.

My favorite poem, my -- my favorite poet was Aeschylus. And he once wrote:

Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.

What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence and lawlessness, but is love, and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or whether they be black.

So I ask you tonight to return home, to say a prayer for the family of Martin Luther King -- yeah, it's true -- but more importantly to say a prayer for our own country, which all of us love -- a prayer for understanding and that compassion of which I spoke.

We can do well in this country. We will have difficult times. We've had difficult times in the past, but we -- and we will have difficult times in the future. It is not the end of violence; it is not the end of lawlessness; and it's not the end of disorder.

But the vast majority of white people and the vast majority of black people in this country want to live together, want to improve the quality of our life, and want justice for all human beings that abide in our land.

And let's dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame [our] savageness and make gentle the life of this world. Let us dedicate ourselves to that, and say a prayer for our country and for our people.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

Sunday 12-1 11:30 *Membership*

Mon., 12-2 7:00pm Facilities Meeting

Tue., 12-3 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera

6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)

7:00pm- Spiritual Life

Wed. 12-4 11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor)

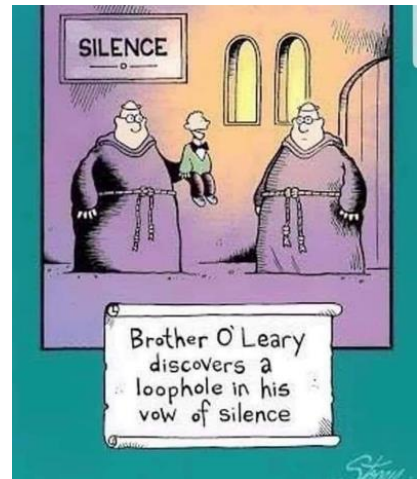
Thur. 12-5 6:15 pm - Music Committee

7:00 pm - Seasonal Choir Practice

8:00 pm – Regular Choir Practice

**SHARE YOUR INSPIRATION** – As a congregational church, input from you, the congregation, is essential. The Spiritual Life Ministry is inviting you to keep an eye out during your week for potential continuing testament readings, bulletin cover art, quotes, and hymns. When you find something that speaks to you, please email it to Pastor John [buccpastor23@gmail.com](mailto:buccpastor23@gmail.com))

You'll notice scriptures for upcoming weeks listed in the Sunday bulletin – ideas that connect to those particular scriptures are especially welcome. In October, our Music Director started a once-monthly brainstorming session scheduled on the first Thursday of the month, at 6:15 pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited! At BUCC, WE ARE ONE, and we look forward to your unique input into our shared journey.





*we are thankful for you*

### December 1st, 2024

Early Usher: **Volunteer Needed**  
Late Usher: *Annette Pederson*  
Greeter: **Volunteer Needed**  
Reader: Jim Duffy  
Flowers: Maggie McNamara  
Counters: Marjorie Culver  
Lori Molesky  
A/V: Fred Pederson  
Snacks: **Volunteers Needed**  
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteers Needed**  
Clean Up: Rose Kaval

### December 8th, 2024

Early Usher: **Volunteer Needed**  
Late Usher: **Volunteer Needed**  
Greeter: **Volunteer Needed**  
Reader: Rose Kaval  
Flowers: **Volunteer Needed**  
Counters: Marjorie Culver  
Lori Molesky  
A/V: David Pastor  
Snack: **Volunteers Needed**  
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteers Needed**  
Clean Up: **Volunteer Needed**

Our sanctuary art this week is a photograph taken by Mark Anthony Munoz in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park



Attendance last Sunday, November 24, 2024 – Adults:59; Kids:12; Online:39; Total: 110  
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Isaiah 40: 1-5** and **Luke 3: 1-6**