



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

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

*"Caminante, no hay  
camino. El camino se  
hace al andar,"  
("Traveler, there is no  
path. The path is  
made by walking."*

*- Antonio Machado,  
Proverbs and Songs  
XXIX*



**2nd Sunday of Advent, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 8th, 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude      Advent Gathering      Daigle**

Assisted by Percussion Group

"Come, O hope of your people. Come among us and stay.

Lead us in mercy up from the shadows, shine in our darkness, be here today."

(Words: Rory Cooney, b. 1952; © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.)

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Meditation**

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*"The first peace, which is the most important,  
is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize  
their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers,  
and when they realize at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit,  
and that its center is really everywhere, it is within each of us."- Black Elk*

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**Gathering in God's Presence**

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**CALL TO PRAYER:**

**One:**    *The Reign of God is drawing near*

**All:**    ***The prophet calls out in the wilderness Repent!  
May we turn our hearts to God!***

**One:**    *Prepare the way for the Lord*

**All:**    ***A just and peaceful path!***

**One:**    *Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you*

**All:**    ***Glory be to God!***

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**One:**    *Last week, first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle symbolizing  
hope. Today, we will light a candle symbolizing peace.*

**All:**    ***We reflect on the proclamation of John the Baptist more than 2,000  
years ago and work to spread the good news today.***

**One:**    *We light the candle of hope,*

**All:**    ***Walking toward and crying out for a world where everyone's basic  
needs are met.***

One: *We light this candle of peace,*

All: ***Smoothing the rough ways and making paths in order to end injustice and violence.***

One: *We light this candle of peace,*

All: ***Awaiting the arrival of Jesus Christ, light of the world. There is darkness everywhere. Let us be the light. We light these candles of Hope and Peace.***

### **The second verse of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing and voices ring with peace to all on earth.*

### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

***Holy God,***

***We long for your peace, and trust in your promise. We hear your call to  
turn toward you,***

***to change our lives and welcome you in.***

***Meet us here. Enlighten our minds with your wisdom.***

***Fill our hearts with your peace. May our worship together  
open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.***

***In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen!***

**Song of Praise:      Comfort, Comfort O My People      #101**

## ***Readings***

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

**First Reading: - Isaiah 40: 1-5(NRSV)**

**Gospel Reading: - Luke 3: 1-6(NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament: Written and presented by Diane Gressley**



## Time with Young Worshipers



### **Anthem - Prepare! Prepare!** Pishner

Refrain: Prepare! Prepare the way of the Lord, oh,

Prepare! Prepare the way of the Lord.

The Lord our God is coming soon.

1. Prepare the way, the way of the Lord.

Ready your hearts. Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!

2. Make straight the path, level the hills,

lift up the gates. Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!

3. Justice and peace, kindness and truth shall come to the earth.

Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!

4. Sing and rejoice! The Lord is near, I say rejoice!

Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!

5. A virgin will bear a son, Emmanuel: God with us!

Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon! (Refrain)

*(Words and Music: Stephen Pishner; Copyright © 2007, GIA Publications, Inc.)*

### **Sermon: "On the Way" by Rev. John King**

## **Hymn of Reflection The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore #115**

### **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]**

With these gifts, dear God,  
accept our offering of love and thanksgiving,  
Let our gifts point to your presence in the world,  
and prepare the way of your coming in our midst.  
through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.



## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure    Come, O Long-Expected Jesus    #122

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)

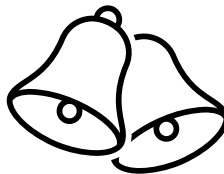


Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical score is written on 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 melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

Postlude    Prepare the Way, O Zion    17<sup>th</sup> century Swedish melody



## Readings

### **First Reading Isaiah 40: 1-5 (NRSV)**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid...  
A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make  
straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it  
together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**Gospel Reading Luke 3: 1-6 (NRSV)** In the fifteenth year of the reign of  
Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and  
Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of  
Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,  
during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God  
came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.  
He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of  
repentance for the forgiveness of sins,  
as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of  
one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his  
paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made  
smooth;  
and all living things shall see the salvation of God.'"

**Continuing Testament** – Written and presented by Diane Gressley



## Announcements:

**Flowers-** The flowers today are dedicated to Janet and Dan Renovetz in celebration of their 66th wedding Anniversary.

**Colony Cupboard** - We are collecting again for the Colony Cupboard! This resource is for students in BBH schools in need of household essentials. There will be a collection bin out for the next three weeks and items will be donated after 12/22. Items in most need include: paper towels (packs of 1-4), toilet paper (packs of 1-4), individually wrapped snacks, umbrellas, laundry soap, hats, gloves, coats, household disinfecting wipes. Donations of cash or gift cards are also accepted.

**Christmas Cantata-** Dear Friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ's Free Concert Series: On Sunday December 15 at 10:00 AM, Brecksville UCC's choir will present its annual Christmas cantata. This year's piece, Together for Christmas, is an eclectic blend of contemporary and traditional Christmas music. The choir will be accompanied by flutes, trumpet, trombone, violin, percussion, and narrators. A light reception will follow the service. You are cordially invited to join us for this BUCC holiday tradition. Brecksville UCC is located at 23 Public Square in downtown Brecksville. The facility is handicapped accessible. For further information, please call 440-526-4364. We hope to see you on the 15th!



**HOLY GROUNDS-** Join Pastor John for an informal conversation and a cup of coffee at Panera (Brecksville). On most Tuesdays, at 8:15-9:15 you can stop by anytime, to talk about whatever is on your mind. You never know who might stop by! Of course, if you are looking for a more private conversation, you can always set up an appointment with Rev. John anytime you like.

**TO DONATE ELECTRONICALLY-** If you would like to make a donation to Brecksville United Church of Christ with your phone, please scan this QR code. If you need assistance, ask an usher - or a grandchild. Thank you!

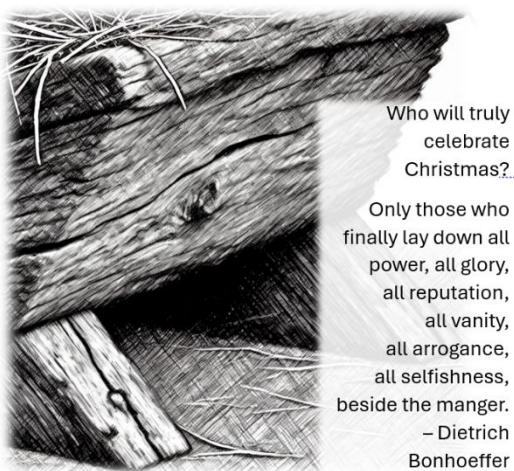


**SHARING GOOD NEWS-** At the beginning of the Sunday service you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep these brief by avoiding details. Share the essentials, then share how people can learn more details (e.g., see the bulletin announcement or talk to somebody). Also, feel free to share good news such as birthdays, anniversaries, retirement, awards, etc.

**COME ON DOWN!** - If you have always dreamed of being in a studio audience, this could be your moment! Our services are broadcast live every week. But our camera placement usually only shows the first three pews. If those pews are empty, it appears that the whole church is empty – not a good look. So, consider sitting in those first few pews toward the center aisle. “Let your light shine!” Matthew 5:16

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

Tue. Dec 10	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 6:30pm- Social Justice (Parlor/Hybrid)
Wed. Dec 11	11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor) 7:00 pm – Church Council
Thur. Dec 12	7:00 pm - Seasonal Choir Practice
Sat. Dec 14	10:00 am - Cantata Practice



Who will truly  
celebrate  
Christmas?...

Only those who  
finally lay down all  
power, all glory,  
all reputation,  
all vanity,  
all arrogance,  
all selfishness,  
beside the manger.  
– Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer

**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)

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 8th, 2024

Early Usher:	<i>Evie Novak</i>
Late Usher:	<i>Evie Novak</i> <i>Lori Molesky</i>
Greeter:	<i>Carol Miller</i>
Reader:	<i>Rose Kaval</i>
Flowers:	<i>Janet Renovetz</i>
Counters:	<i>Marjorie Culver</i> <i>Lori Molesky</i>
A/V:	<i>David Pastor</i>
Snacks:	<i>Katie MacKeigan King</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

### December 15th, 2024

Early Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Greeter:	<i>Lori Molesky</i>
Reader:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Flowers:	<b>Christmas Poinsettias</b>
Counters:	<i>Marjorie Culver</i> <i>Janet Renovetz</i>
A/V:	<i>Bryan Chaikin</i>
Snack:	<i>Maggie McNamara</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Maggie McNamara</i>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

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



Attendance last Sunday, December 1st, 2024 – Adults: 49; Kids: 9; Online: 20; Total: 78  
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Philippians 4: 4-9** and **Luke 1: 39-56**