



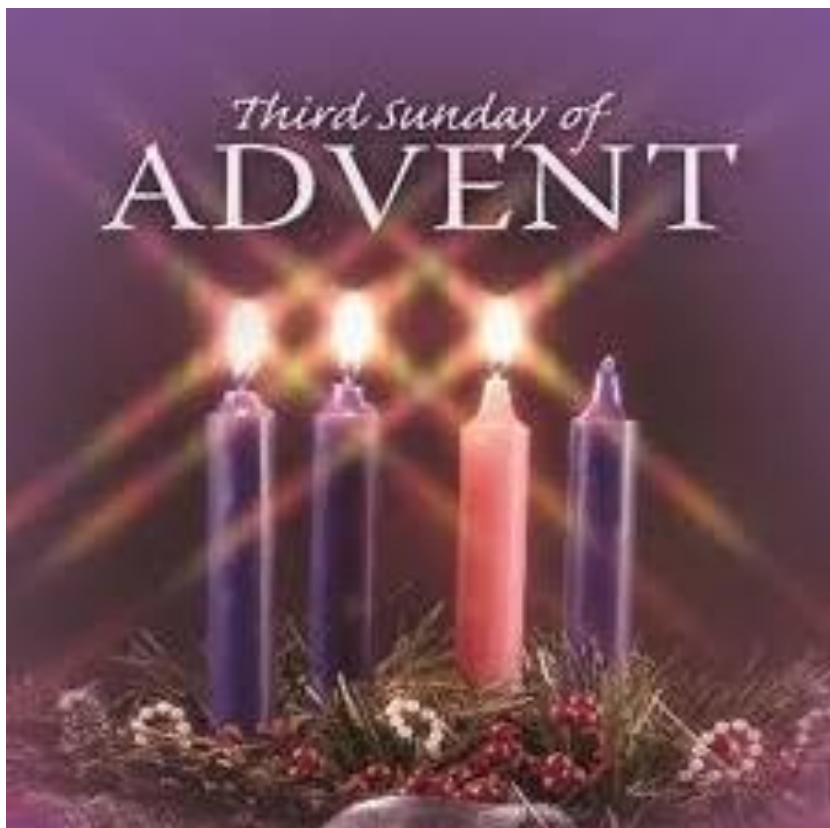
Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

*"You either get better
or you get bitter. It's
that simple. You either
take what has been
dealt you and allow it
to make you a better
person, or you allow it
to tear you down. The
choice does not
belong to fate, it
belongs to you.*

– Josh Shipp



Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Pastor

• Jeff Jackson

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Office Manager

• Miranda Lacefield

****LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST****

- 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.

Announcements:

Adopt a Family Donations- Please leave your marked gifts, gift cards and money in the box outside the sanctuary today. Let Diane Gressley know if it will be later.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:00 pm This year

Colony Cupboard- We are continuing to support the Colony Cupboard! This is a resource for students at Brecksville Broadview Hts High School who need essentials and school supplies. We donated a trunk full of supplies this summer and plan to make another donation over the holidays. Based on student needs for the new school year, below is the updated list of supplies they are requesting:

Markers, highlighters, binders, graph paper, & headphones

Donations are collected in the back of the church.

Mitten Tree- The annual mitten tree is in the narthex. Last year we filled the tree over 4 times and the items were delivered to the shelters. Note that scarfs, mittens, gloves and even unopened packages of socks are always needed this time of year.

Special Thank You to this week's guest musician Eric Brubaker!

Attendance last Sunday, November 7th, 2025 – Adults: 63; Kids: 13; Online: 8;
Additional Views: 33; Total: 117



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!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Dec 16	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
	7:30 pm – Communication and Outreach
Wed. Dec 17	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
Thu. Dec 18	7:00 pm – Choir Practice
Fri. Dec 19	6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 14th, 2025

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort Now My People (Instrumental)

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

Awaken me to the joy rising amid weariness.

*Call to Prayer

Leader: The desert and the dry land shall rejoice; the wilderness shall bloom like the crocus.

People: We come thirsty for signs of life and blossoms of hope.

Leader: Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not be afraid!"

People: We will open our eyes to see what God is doing among us.

Leader: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped,

People: And all God's people will sing for joy!

*Hymn of Praise

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

#55

*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

God of promise and patience, You meet us in the wilderness,

You steady us in our waiting, And you stir us toward joy.

Open our hearts in this hour to see the signs of your coming among us—

the blossoms of justice, the waters of compassion,

the songs of peace rising from unexpected places.

Amen.

*Assurance of Grace


Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

Reader 1: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.


Reader 2: Joy not yet complete, but joy already among us.

Reader 3: For we have seen the signs and heard the promises—God is near.

Congregational Song: “One Candle Is Lit” – sing verse 1 while the candle is lit.

 *Come Surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, our hearts long to greet you,
as roses, the light. Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage. One candle is lit for
the hope of the age.*

*Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with
justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for
the reign of God’s peace.*

*Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, join angels in dancing from heaven
to earth. Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for
the joy of these days.* 

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1–6a, 10

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come, he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Second Reading: James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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.

Brothers and sisters, 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, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Anthem

Light of the World

Third Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples

and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Litany of Testimony

Choir Members

Leader: Jesus said, "Go and tell what you hear and see." Today we lift our voices together, naming where we have witnessed God's presence among us.

Reader 1: I saw God in ...

People: We go and tell what we see.

Reader 2: I heard hope in ...

People: We go and tell what we hear.

Reader 3: I saw new life when ...

People: We go and tell what we see.

Reader 4: I heard God through ...

People: We go and tell what we hear.

Reader 5: I saw God's love in ...

People: We go and tell what we see.

Reader 6: I heard peace rising when ...

People: We go and tell what we hear.

Leader: These are the signs of God's kingdom unfolding in our midst—moments of mercy, courage, and joy that bear witness to Christ among us.

People: Glory to God, who is still at work!

Continuing Testament: A Prayer for Advent" by Sarah Bessey

God of the already and the not yet,
Teach us to sing hope into the cracks of the world,
To trust your slow work,
To believe that even in the waiting,
your kingdom is coming near.

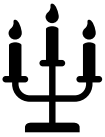
May our joy be defiant,
our love be fierce,
and our peace disturb the powers that prefer despair.

May we see the Christ arriving in unexpected places—
in small kindnesses,
in brave truth-telling,
in steady hope.

O Come, Emmanuel,
and be born again in us.

Prayers of the Church

In our Prayers



Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Mac Hoppel, Tina Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Tony Cuninghame, Chad Sproul, Dot and Stu Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Kathy Ford, Midge Cassidy, "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Meditation

The Savior'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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music



***Doxology**

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]**

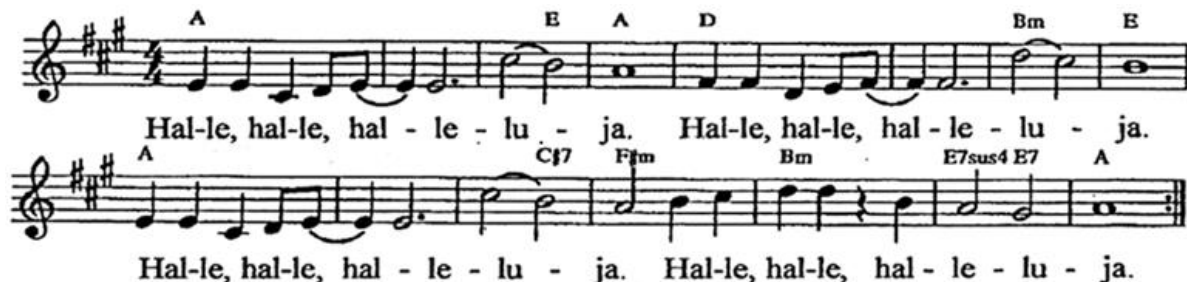
God of Joy,
we bring these gifts in thanksgiving for the healing you stir among us.
Gladden weary hearts through this offering,
that your joy may be known near and far.
Amen.

***Hymn of Departure**

Joy to the World

#132

***Circle of Community** Please join us in a circle around the sanctuary and lift your voices together and again after the benediction.



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 guitar on two staves. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a treble clef and the second has a bass clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E on the first staff; A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A on the second staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Lift Up Your Heads

Go, and let joy's light heal the weary and afraid.

