



# Brecksville

## United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

*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,  
Whatever your race, ethnicity,  
or age,*

*Whatever your gender identity  
or sexual orientation,  
Whatever your religious  
background, creed, or  
spirituality,*

*Whatever your social or  
economic circumstances,*

*Whatever your health  
conditions, impairments, or  
mobility needs,*

*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!*



*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)*

**Pastor**

• Jeff Jackson

**Financial Secretary**

• Joy Garapic

**Office Manager**

• Miranda Lacefield

# Christmas Eve Service

## December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The First Nowell

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Silent Meditation

*Awaken me to the radiance of God-with-us.*

### Procession of Light

### Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#116

### \*Call to Prayer

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: The Word has become flesh and dwells among us.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!**

### \*Hymn of Praise

O Come All Ye Faithful

#135

### \*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

**Radiant God,**

**on this holy night your Word takes flesh and your light breaks through every shadow.**

**Come again to dwell among us:**

**in our singing, in our silence, in our joy, and in our longing.**

**Let the story we tell tonight**

**become truth in every heart.**

**Through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Grace

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles**


Reader 1: On this holy night, we light all the candles—the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—and the Christ Candle at the center.

Reader 2: Christ, our light, has come into the world.

Reader 3: The darkness cannot overcome it, for God is with us—now and always.

### **Congregational Song: “One Candle Is Lit”**


Start singing when the first 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***

***Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play, where evil is banished and faith takes the day, a babe in a manger to fool the world’s eyes. One candle is lit for God’s loving surprise.***

***Come, listen, the sounds of God with us ring clear, and signs of a cross in the distance appear. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near. One candle is lit for the Christ-birth-day here.*** 

### **Time With Young Worshipers**

#### **Meditation**

*The Distance Closed*

#### **Lessons and Carols**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-6**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **Hymn**

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

**#129**

### **Second Reading: Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

**Third Reading: Luke 2: 8-14**

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Fourth Reading: Luke 2: 15-20**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child,

and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

**Christmas Prayer**

**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**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**#144**

**\*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]**

Holy God, on this night when your love takes flesh among us, receive the gifts we bring.  
Shine your light through them and through us,  
that hope may rise where there is longing  
and peace may grow where there is need.  
Let Christ's love be born anew in the world through the generosity we offer today.  
Amen.

**\*Service of Candle Lighting**

*All move to form a circle around the sanctuary*

**\*Charge for the Bearers of Light**

**\*Hymn**

Silent Night (Insert)

**#134**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

Joy to the World (Insert)

#132

**\*\*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.



## Christmas Poinsettias



<i>Peg and Jim Duffy</i>	<i>In memory of dear Aunt Jill</i>
<i>Dan and Jan Renovetz</i>	<i>In Memory Bob and Jackie Henry</i>
<i>Bob and Caroline Chandler</i>	<i>In Memory of our daughter Sue who passed away in May 2025</i>
<i>Sue Stenzel</i>	<i>In Honor and in memory of those who came before</i>
	<i>In Honor of those lost but NEVER forgotten</i>
<i>Mary Kidd</i>	
<i>Lois Lorenze</i>	<i>In Memory of Rudy Lorenzo</i>
<i>Fred and Annette Pedersen</i>	<i>In Memory of our parents and Russ Pedersen</i>
<i>Jill Zedan</i>	<i>In Honor of this congregation as we carry on in this topsy-turvy world.</i>
<i>Jane and Cliff Cribbs</i>	<i>In Memory of Loved ones</i>
<i>Joy Garapic</i>	<i>In Memory of William Garapic, husband, father, grandfather</i>
<i>Julie Bernard and Linda Kriynovich</i>	<i>In Memory of Tony, Julie, and Lori Gorenc</i>
<i>Diane Gressley</i>	<i>In Memory of Evan and Emma Gressley</i>

*Sherrill and Bill Witt*

*In Memory of Shirley and Arch Duncan  
In Memory of Mary and Bill Will, Sr  
In Memory of Elizabeth Reigner and Judy  
Crow*

*Wes and Evie Novak*

*In Memory of Wesley, Pam Novak, Nancy  
Karras, John Copp and Jayson Copp*

*Armand Eusanio and Jeff  
Thompson*

*In memory of Armand's parents*

*Robert and Ann Eusanio*

*In memory of Jeff's parents*

*Jim and Gin Thompson*

*In memory of Armand's niece*

*Lee Ann Candela*

*Gordon, Tracey and Eleanor  
Gibb*

*In Memory of Vivienne Grace Gibb and Rev.  
H. Robert Jewell*

*Carol Miller*

*In Memory of Robert and Margaret Miller*

*In Memory of Robert G. Miller*

*In Memory of Kathleen Unetic*

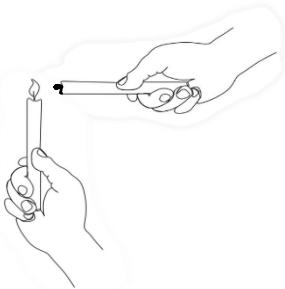
*In Honor of all members of Carol Miller's  
Wonderful family*

*Gayle and Allison Colbert*

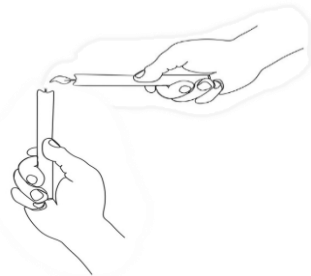
*Larry and Sandy Wibert and Donald and  
Martha Colbert*

*Joe and Betsey Wilson*

*With love and appreciation for our BUCC  
Family*



DO light candles this way. The flame stays safely on the bottom. The rising heat lights the candle above.



DON'T light candles this way. Wax will drip onto hands and seat cushions. It hurts and is difficult to clean.