



## **Affirmation of Welcome**

**We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.**

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are male, female, or transgender,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic,

Or a life-long member of the UCC,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person with differing abilities,

**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!**

### **WELCOME TO VISITING PARENTS**

We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour:

- ✧ Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery.
- ✧ Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers.
- ✧ Crayons and paper for children are also available from ushers.

Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave, and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, or becoming a member, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for one. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Williams Sound Personal PA receiver available for your use in the sanctuary. Pillows for your back support are also available.

#### ***Office Hours:***

**Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 9:00 - 12:00**

**Church Phone: 440-526-4364**

**e-mail: [buccoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## DECEMBER 21, 2014 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Meditation Music

Divine Source of wonderful surprises, we are often so mired in what we expect, that we forget to prepare for the unexpected. Stir us and inspire us, that we may be ready to celebrate - and share- the Holy Gift of Love that comes to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

### **Prelude**

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow African-American spiritual

### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God,

**People: Let the earth rejoice, let the hills and forest sing for joy!**

L: Glory to God in the highest,

**P: Peace to all people on earth!**

L: Today, may the Sacred Story of Christ's coming stir-up our souls,

**P: To refresh and renew our faith and our lives!**

L: Today, may the Love of the Christ Child shine within us,

**All: To be treasured, and nurtured, and spread throughout the earth!**

### **\* Hymn of Praise**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#154

### **\*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

**Holy Source of Light and Life, your Still-Speaking Voice comes to us in many different ways and places, sometimes when we least expect it. Today, may we hear the good news of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, through the spirited voices of the children among us. And may we all know the joy of seeing your loving promise come to life and grow among us every day. Amen.**

### **\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,  
And on earth be peace to all peo - ple with whom God is pleased.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

## The Candle of Love

L: Our fourth Advent candle is the Candle of Love.

**P: In Jesus Christ, Divine Love is wrapped in human form.**

L: As the light of this candle burns brightly, so may the love of Christ shine brightly in our hearts and lives;

**P: That those who seek light and warmth may find it among us.**

L: As the light of Christ's love touches, inspires, and transforms us,

**P: May we use our lives to touch others with hope, peace, and joy!**

[As the Candles are lighted, we will sing the following verse of *One Candle Is Lit*]

*Come wander, where lion and lamb gently play,*

*Where evil is banished and faith takes the day.*

*A babe in a manger illumines our eyes,*

*One candle is lit for God's loving surprise!*

**The Old Testament**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible, page 690

**The New Testament**

Luke 1:26-38

Pew Bible, page 56

**The Continuing Testament**

*God is Still Speaking...* Through our children and youth!

## ***The Christmas Pageant – A Christmas Play by Play***

***By Cathy Skogen-Soldner***

***(\*see insert\*)***

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

### **Silent Meditation**

### **Prayers of the Church**

**Our Lord's Prayer** *[the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to One's Theological understanding]*

**...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.**

### **Organ Response**

## ***Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings***

### **The Invitation**

#### **Offertory**

Love Came Down at Christmas

Irish melody

#### **\* Offertory Hymn**

**We praise the Babe this time of year,  
Sing carols to him whom we hold dear.  
Our love, His power we now proclaim,  
We send our gifts in Jesus's name. Amen!**

#### **\* Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**We thank you, Holy Source of Love, for the gift of this Holy Season. We are grateful for the generosity stirred-up in us by Christ's coming into this world. May these gifts represent a renewed spirit of compassion and sharing among us, and may your loving purpose be accomplished through these gifts and through our lives. These things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate and whose name we praise! Amen.**

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

#### **Hymn of Departure**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#129

#### **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.*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The first staff has chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E. The second staff has chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

14<sup>th</sup> century German

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Cheryl Speith, Rudy Lorenzo, Dan Renovetz, Addy Baldwin, G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Don & Eleanor Kusa, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

Attendance Sunday, December 14, 2014 – Adults: 145 Kids: 20 Total: 165

**BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please sign our Guest Book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

**THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE AT 10:00 pm.** We will commemorate Jesus' birth with carols and scripture, and celebrate Christ's continuing Presence through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our service will conclude with our traditional Circle of Candlelight, as we receive and pass-on to others the Light of Christ's love and peace.

**CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY!** The Community of St. Bridget, the group that worships here on Saturdays at 5 pm, will be celebrating Christmas with a service in our Sanctuary at 10 am. All BUCC members and friends are welcome to join them. St. Bridget's is a progressive and inclusive Family of Faith, who - like our family - extend

Christ's welcome to the Communion Table to all who are present. Our own Kate Klonowski's mom, Ann, will be leading the worship service.

**HUNGER MEAL** BUCC along with St. Bridget Community will be serving a meal today at Pearl Road United Methodist Church.

**CHRISTMAS FUND** The Christmas Fund will be received this morning. The funds will be used to supplement monthly pensions for lower-income retired clergy and lay employees. Needs such as food, utilities, prescription medicines and other needs also will be addressed. Please help us to remind veterans of the cross that they are not forgotten.

**THE MEALS ON WHEELS** program in North Royalton is looking for volunteer drivers. They would only drive once a week at lunch time with the same day and route. Delivery would be only to North Royalton area residents. For more information please call Diane Krafft at 237-7958 ext 234.

**THE MITTEN TREE** needs Mittens, hats, scarves, socks to decorate the Narthex.

**DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** Small Canned Hams, Canned Sweet & White Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pie Crust Mix, Canned Pumpkin, etc.

## ***The Readings***

**The Old Testament** - Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Holy One has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Holy One will arise upon you, whose glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the Holy Ones praise.

## **The New Testament - Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The woman's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Holy One is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his realm there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Holy One; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

- |                          |       |                                                                |
|--------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 12/21/2014</b> | 10 am | Worship Service/Christmas Pageant                              |
|                          | 11 am | Coffee Hour                                                    |
|                          |       | <b>*BUCC Hunger Meal – Pearl Road United Methodist Church*</b> |
| <b>Wed 12/24/2014</b>    | 6 am  | Early Birds                                                    |
|                          | 9 pm  | Choir Rehearsal                                                |
|                          | 10 pm | Candlelight Communion Service                                  |
| <b>Thurs 12/25/2014</b>  |       | <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>                                         |
|                          | 10 am | Worship led by Ann Klonowski<br><b>*office closed*</b>         |
| <b>Sunday 12/28/2014</b> | 10 am | Worship Service                                                |
|                          | 11 am | Coffee Hour                                                    |

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 21, 2014**

**Lay Reader: Evie Novak**  
**Head Usher: Jill Zedan**  
**Ushers: Jon Thompson, Wes Novak**  
**Kate Klonowski, Matt Wolbert**  
**Acolyte: Ryan Stewart**  
**Peace Cndl: Drew Demko**  
**Sound: David Pastor**  
**Comns Grtr: Ann Kelly**  
**Nartx Grtr: Chad Sproul**  
**Flowers: Poinsettias**  
**Nursery: Kathy Pastor**  
**Counters: Donn Whyte, Anna Mary Fisher**  
**Servers: Marge Culver, Dottie Farwell**  
**Clean-Up: Pat Bailey, Bridget Sproul**  
**Snacks: Christian Education**  
**Snow Hrdr: Wes Novak**

**PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 28, 2014**

**Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel**  
**Head Usher: Diane Gressley**  
**Ushers: Drew Wilson, Lindsey Maier**  
**Kathy & David Pastor**  
**Acolyte: Ben Davis**  
**Peace Cndl: Garrett Demko**  
**Sound: Doug Fawcett**  
**Comns Grtr: Bridget Sproul**  
**Narthex Grtr: Lenore Harris**  
**Flowers: Jan Renovetz**  
**Nursery: Peg Duffy**  
**Counters: David Pastor, Dassie Matsuoka**  
**Servers: Caroline Chandler, Joy Garapic**  
**Clean-Up: Anne Melfo Doug Fawcett & Family,**  
**Jan Renovetz**  
**Snacks: Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz**  
**Snow Hrdr: Chad Sproul**



## **2014 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

Anonymous

*In Memory of the Lost but Not Forgotten.*

Julie Bernard &  
Linda Kriynovich

*In Memory of Tony, Julie & Lori Gorenc.*

Bob & Caroline  
Chandler

*In Memory of Lucille Collison, Ruth Rice & others – Gone but Not Forgotten.*

Joanne Cook

*In Memory of my Husband Skip, Parents, and Twin Sister Jeanne.*

Jane & Cliff  
Cribbs

*In Memory of Loved Ones.*

Jeanne Cowden

*In Memory of Husband, Jim.*

Marjorie Culver

*In Memory of my Husband Dick, and Brothers-in-Law Ron & Carlton.*

Jim & Peg Duffy

*Thanks to the Light that Alex, Indy, Evy, and Bash bring to our Family.*

Dottie & Jim Farwell

*In Memory and Honor of our Parents.*

Anna Mary Fisher

*In Memory of my Sister Dorothy and her Husband Jack.*

Dorie Gabor

*In Memory of my Husband, Steven Gabor, my Parents, and Siblings.*

Joy Garapic

*In Memory of William Garapic, Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather.*

- Diane Gressley      *In Memory of Emma & Evan Gressley.*
- Phyllis Hassler      *In Memory of Frank Hassler.*
- Diane Lightbody      *In Honor of the Duda and Lightbody Family – here, and in their Heavenly Home.*
- Dassie Matsuoka & Daughters      *In Memory of James Matsuoka.*
- Anne Melfo & Doug Fawcett      *In Honor of Family & Friends we will miss this year.*
- Phyllis Molnar      *In Memory of George & Bertha Ulsenheimer, my Parents, and Edward Molnar, Husband.*
- Novak Family      *In Memory of Wesley Novak, Pamela Novak, Jason Copp, and all of those who live on in our Hearts & Minds.*
- Bettina Ortiz      *In Loving Memory of Betty, Joseph, & Timothy*
- Fred & Connie Pesek      *In Memory of our Parents.*
- Eric Rahnenfuehrer      *In Honor of Jan & Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer.*
- Max Roha      *In Loving Memory David J. Roha, Mary C. Roha, and Lois L. Wallin.*
- Miriam R. Rosewicz      *In Memory of Family Members, and Loved Ones.*
- George & Carole Snider      *In Memory of our good Friend and Lovely Person, Debbie Busta.*
- Vicki Szabo      *In Loving Memory of Vic Szabo.*
- Jon K. Thompson      *In Memory of my Family, Gone but not Forgotten.*
- Bill & Anne Toneff      *In Memory of Elizabeth & C.C. Thornton, and Vera & Milan Toneff*

Donn Whyte

*In Memory of Wayne Whyte.*

The Joe Wilson  
Family

*In Memory of Norinne F. Brownlow, and John M. Brownlow, Sr.  
& Randall P. Trefzger.*

Bill & Sherrill Witt

*In Honor of Shirley Duncan & the Late Arch Duncan. In Memory of  
Bill & Mary Witt. In Memory of Jane R. Witt. In Memory of the Peart  
& Bishop Families. In Honor of all the Members of BUCC.*

Jill Zedan

*For all those whose hearts are struggling this Christmas Season.*