

BRECKSVILLE

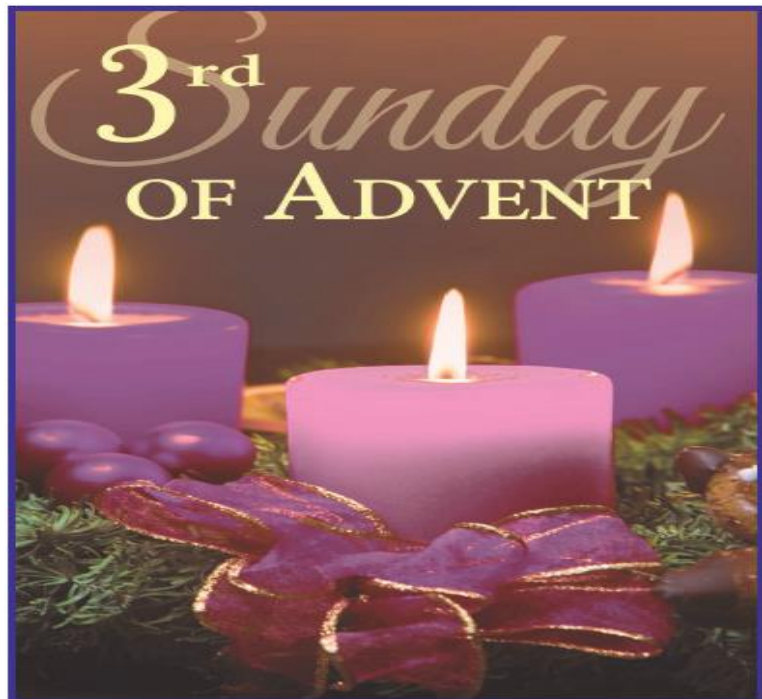
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

*"We need Joy
as we need air.
We need Love
as we need
water. WE
need each
other as we
need the earth
we share."*

Maya Angelou



"Joy"

Sunday December 15, 2019 • 10:00 AM
Third Sunday in Advent

Pastor
• Allan Lane

Director of Music *Financial Secretary* *Ministers*
• David Debick • Joy Garapic All of our Members
Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

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, bisexual, or pangender
You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, 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!



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, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

Office Hours:

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

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

December 15, 2019 – Third Sunday in Advent

Meditation Music

“Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. She gives most who gives with joy.”

— Mother Teresa

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Schop

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

Lighting the Advent Wreath The Candle of Joy

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

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.

Advent Candle Lighting

L: The light of Christ has brought hope and peace into the world. Now his light will bring us joy in anticipation of Christmas.

P: The people who dwelt in darkness have seen a great light!

L: The people who did not know anything of God have heard the good news:

P: God is not far off and distant, but God is Emmanuel, God with us, right here in our midst.

L: May the light of Christ's birth shine joyful light into every life.

P: May God fill the world with joy!

* Call to Worship

Leader: The angels announced tidings of great joy to all people of good will who dwell on earth.

People: We receive the angels' joy when we receive the Savior into our lives.

Leader: The birth of a baby brings joy because each child is a new life on earth.

People: The birth of Jesus brings joy because this child brings eternal life to earth!

Leader: Rejoice with the joy of souls reconciled and reconnected with their Creator! Let us worship God!

*** Hymn of Praise**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(lyrics on the screen)

John F. Wade

*** Prayer of Confession [Unison]**

O Giver of Joy, we confess that our joy is silenced by sin, muffled by mistakes, and strangled by our complicity in the sins of our society. We want to rejoice, but we look inside, and we see our own failure to live as you lived; we look outside and we see race against race, rich against poor, person against person. We do not love our neighbors as ourselves unless they are just like ourselves. O Giver of Joy, heal us inside and out; heal us personally and in community; heal us, so that we may know the joy that you bring to this earth.

***Words of Assurance**

Leader: The Apostle Paul wrote to his young colleague Timothy: "This saying is true and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." We have together confessed our sin, and so now I proclaim to you the truth of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "And on earth be peace to all peo - ple with whom God is pleased." The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Old Testament

Psalm 16:8-11
The Psalmist finds joy

Pew Bible, page 496

The New Testament

Luke 2:8-20
The Shepherds' Joy!

Pew Bible, page 58

Contemporary Thought

Russel M. Nelson

Youth Pageant

"Our Gifts to Jesus"

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Go Tell It on the Mountain

African-American spiritual

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

* 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*

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.

Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A

Benediction

Postlude

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Piae Cantiones, 1582, arr. Holst

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Leroy Ford, Joy Garapic, Nancy Stella, Betty Kaul, Don Seager, The Corpora Family, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Richard Sacher, brother of Jan Renovetz, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (Niece of Kathy Smith), Pat Bailey, Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Mary Dagostino, 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 8, 2019 – Adults: 65 Kids: 20 Total: 85

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.

WE WELCOME VISITING PARENTS - We offer several childcare 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 are also available from ushers for children.

FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may be in recovery from addiction.

POINSETTIA DEDICATION DEADLINE is today! Please see the back cover of the Bulletin to make your Dedication.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – NEXT Sunday December 22 at 10 AM, BUCC's choir and seasonal choir will present *Emmanuel--God With Us!*, arranged and composed by Lloyd Larson. This lessons and carols program is a wonderful collection of both traditional and contemporary Christmas music. It will be accompanied by flute, French horn, trumpets, violin, cello, percussion, and narrators. We hope you can join us on the 22nd to enjoy this BUCC holiday tradition. Bring a friend!

THE BUCC LIBRARY invites you to take a look at the grown-ups' and teens' books for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany displayed on the top shelf of the red book►

cart. Children's books for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are displayed on the lowest shelf of the red book cart.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR A NICE APARTMENT?

BUCC has a very nice 2-bedroom unit available for rent in our Arlington Street property. The unit has an eat-in-kitchen, dining room, and living room on the first floor, and two bedrooms and bath on the second floor. The unit comes complete with a stove, fridge, washer and dryer, garage parking and cozy front porch. The unit will be available December 1st, and rents for \$850 per month. Please pass the word around! Thank you, Doug Fawcett.

THE MITTEN TREE has sprouted in the narthex again, just waiting to be “decorated” with hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to be delivered to those who will need them in the cold weather. They are delivered to hunger centers when the donated food items are delivered to hunger centers.

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

PFLAG - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This is a local and national organization that has been in the Cleveland Area for 35 years. One of the services provided is a Monthly Support Group Meeting. The group is led by a licensed Psychologist and Social Workers. The purpose is to provide support and education to family and friends of people coming out Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual or Questioning. The group is free and meets at Trinity Cathedral on the second Tuesday of the month 645p-830p. For more information, call Mark Lehman, LISW at 330.631.4415

Readings

The Old Testament - Psalm 16:8-11

I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

The New Testament - Luke 2:8-20

In that 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!”

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. But 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, as it had been told them.

Contemporary Thought — Russel M. Nelson

“The joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives.”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 15	10:00 am	Worship/Children's Pageant
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Thurs., Dec. 19	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir *Rehearsal for Cantata with Instruments*
Friday, Dec. 20		*Office Closed*
Saturday, Dec.21	10:00 am	Choir rehearsal for Cantata With instruments
	12:00 pm	Presentation of Cantata At Chippewa Place
Sunday, Dec. 22	10:00 am	Worship/Cantata *CHRISTMAS OFFERING*
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 15, 2019

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Dan Stewart, Diane Gressley
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Peter Kucmins
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard
Flowers: Carole Snider
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E Teacher: Marla Corrado
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Children's Program
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 22, 2019

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: George & Carole Snider
Carrie Coyer-Westerberg,
Michelina Fawcett
Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Evelyn Kucmins
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Poinsettias
Nursery: Courtni Began
C.E. Teacher: Anne Melfo-Fawcett
Counters: Dave Bernard, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Julie Bernard, Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Choir Cantata
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy
Snow Herder: James Tyler

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH POINSETTIAS IN OUR SANCTUARY



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Christmas with those who are ill or shut-in or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office

DEADLINE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15



I Enclose \$12.00 _____ or other _____ for Poinsettias

In Memory _____ or Honor _____ or _____

Of _____

Your Name _____

I WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS _____

****PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP YOUR POINSETTIA OR LEAVE IT HERE FOR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS****

WILL KEEP _____

WILL NOT KEEP _____