



## **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)**

## FEBRUARY 23, 2014 – SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### **Meditation Music**

Compassionate Holy One, you break down our defenses, seeking us, pursuing us, going the second mile with us, no matter how often we turn away from you. When we have been through difficulties, you seek to love and understand us. Help us to be there for others without judgment, and to share our faith in ways that are disarming and gracious. Amen.

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**Prelude**

Prelude

Glazunov

### **Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Light of Christ**

#### **Call to Worship - from *Psalm 89***

L: I will sing of your steadfast love, O God;

**P: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

L: I will declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

**P: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

L: The heavens are yours, and the earth as well;

**P: The world and all that is in it, for you have founded all things.**

L: Happy are those who shout your praises;

**All: Who walk in the light of your presence, O God most high!**

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

#28

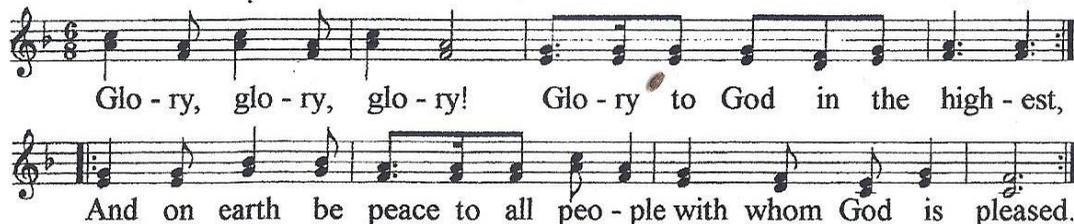
#### **\* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

**Gracious Holy One, be with us now and stay with us always - as we worship, as we work, as we share the challenges of living our faith each day. By the power of your Holy Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our confusion to confidence. Touch us with your Life-changing Love, and speak to us through your Compassionate Word. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 Old Testament**

Leviticus 19:9-18

Pew Bible, page 106

**The New Testament**

Matthew 5:38-48

Pew Bible, page 5

**The Continuing Testament** by Russell Rathbun

in *The Hardest Question*

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

So Little Time

Grant

**Sermon**

*It's Kind of Like Aikido*

Pastor Dave Shackle

**Hymn of Reflection**

Your Ways Are Not Our Own

#170

***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**

Response

Pinkham

#### **\*The 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]**

**Gracious God, Source of our lives and Giver of every good gift: accept these offerings that we present to you today. May they serve as symbols of our commitment to you and to your saving work in this place and in this world.**

**May they also be a sign of our willingness to give our whole lives in service to you and to your message of welcome and love. This we pray in the gracious Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

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

**\* Hymn of Departure**

Now Is the Time Approaching

#609

**Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**

Acolyte

#### **Circle of Fellowship**

*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 through 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.

### \*Commission and Benediction

Postlude

Sortie

Tournemire

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

The Family of Michelle Rogers, The Family of Betty Batsch, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz, 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, February 16, 2014 –Adults: 77 Kids: 19 Total: 96

### **BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for refreshments and conversation.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are given by Freda Rahnenfuehrer in Celebration of Jan and Eric Rahnenfuehrer's Birthdays.

**SOUP SUPPER ASH WEDNESDAY** The annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper will be March 5th at 6:30 p.m. Homemade soup will be provided by the Spiritual Life Ministry. Those participating in the supper whose last names begin with letters A through L are asked to bring a SMALL loaf of bread. If your loaf is large just bring half. If you don't have any come anyway! The supper is followed by a communion service.

**BUCC'S RECORDER/DULCIMER ENSEMBLE** has resumed practicing on Wednesdays from 5-5:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in learning to play soprano recorder or lap dulcimer, contact Dave D. At this time the church has one spare dulcimer and a couple recorders available for use.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING** . . .for our Church Family. Thanks to all of your prayers and many other forms of support, Doug is home and doing well in outpatient therapy, Andrew is being his silly self as usual, and I am still standing! When we happened across BUCC nearly 10 years ago, I could never have imagined the power of the loving, generous, and faithful family we were choosing. Through those 10 years I have come to realize the depth of this community in all those areas, and now, being the recipients of your wondrous support during our family's time of crisis, I find yet another reason to praise God for leading us to your doors. Thank you. ~ Diane Lightbody

**FAMILY PROMISE** - Tuesday, March 4 at Christ the Redeemer Church in Brecksville: Please consider a donation of food (homemade or store bought) and/or your time to assist in this program which provides temporary shelter to needy families. For more info please see Kathy Pastor, the Chandlers, or Pastor Dave.

### **CHRISTIAN ED UPDATE:**

**Lenten Project:** What's the first sign of spring for CE? The Lenten Project! This year, the kids would like to raise money to help with local need, and have chosen to support The Centers for Family & Children ([thecentersohio.org](http://thecentersohio.org)). As an organization, BUCC regularly supports the Brookside Food Center on Pearl Road through our donations of food and supplies. As part of this project, we will be organizing a trip for the kids to visit Brookside to see how our donations are used to help others in our community.

This year the kids are going to make beaded lanyards for the name tags that they will sell at Fellowship Hour during Lent for between \$5 & \$10. We like this idea because not only is it a fun way for the kids to raise money, but we hope it will also help encourage members to wear their name tags as they will have one or more *beautiful, handmade lanyards* to show them off with!

This is also a great opportunity to clean out your craft closet or cabinet -- if you have any crafting beads that you would like to donate to the cause, you can give them to any of the kids to take to class. Thanks in advance!

**Secondary Room Cleanup:** In March we will be working to clean up the Secondary Classroom (2nd - 5th grade) and make it feel more inviting and less like a 'storage room'.

We have already reached out to Council to help identify items we need to preserve - if you have anything stored in this room you would like us to watch out for, please contact Sue Maier.

**BOWLING PARTY TODAY** at Northwood Lanes, 1:00 PM, our Annual Bowling Party. This has always been a fun activity for all ages. Two games and shoes will be \$6. Pizza and Pop will be provided. Bumper lanes available for our youth.

**KENT STATE FASHION MUSEUM...**Our road trip from January has been Rescheduled for Sunday, March 2, 2014. We will carpool after Church and a quick Lunch. Please sign up so we are able to determine how many drivers will be needed.

**THE BLESSINGS JAR** is for your use to drop in a note and/or money in response to a special blessing you have received during the week. We would like to recognize your blessing in the Pillar if you wish.

**FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY/CRAFT CUPBOARD** items are school supplies. **FOOD PANTRY** items of need *are always*: canned fruit and vegetables, juice, cereal (hot or cold), Peanut Butter, Jam/Jelly, Toilet Paper, Soap, Toothpaste/Brushes, all Toiletry products. Please, leave your donations in the basket outside of the office door. Monetary contributions are always welcome. Please mark your envelope "Food Pantry."

**PLEASE BE SURE** to enter your meeting and event schedule in the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the weekly bulletin and in the monthly Pillar.

**NAME TAGS** are available for you to wear in the church and at coffee hour. These are helpful to visitors and new members to get to know our people. If you are missing a name tag, please let the Office know.

## ***THE READINGS***

### **The Old Testament - Leviticus 19:9-18**

*The Holy One spoke to Moses, saying: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Sovereign One, your God.*

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Holy One. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall revere your God: I am the Holy One. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Holy One. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall admonish your neighbor when appropriate, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Holy One.

### **The New Testament - Matthew 5:38-48**

*Jesus says, “You have heard that it was said of old, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.*

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Heavenly Parent; who makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Parent is perfect.*

### **The Continuing Testament - by Russell Rathbun - in *The Hardest Question* [edited]**

The Hebrew Scripture declares “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” In other words, don’t hate your neighbor, don’t judge her, don’t steal from him, and don’t show deference to one over another - love them all equally. But who is my neighbor? *Jesus’ response to that question was to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan.*

The way the Good Samaritan story was always interpreted for me, emphasized the “Other”. My neighbor was really someone who was different from me, foreign to me. I should treat them as one of my own. That of course is laudable, but maybe it lets me off the hook with the person who lives next door. I think the issue of proximity, takes

precedent over similarity or dis-similarity. The Hebrew Holiness Code tries to spell-out how people can live peacefully and interact positively with the people who are beside them every day.

Collecting food or money to send away to people ravaged by disaster or war is a worthy, and one might even say loving, action; but it is not the kind of love being referred to in the Scriptures. In truth, it's really not possible to love crowds of people at a distance. It is only possible to love the people I know, the people I encounter at the grocery store or in traffic, the people who are around me day-in and day-out.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday 2/23/2014</b>	10 am	Worship
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	1 pm	Bowling Party-Northwood Lanes
<b>Tuesday 2/25/2014</b>	10-11:30am	CWRU Parlor
<b>Wednesday 2/26/2014</b>	6 am	Early Birds
	5 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
<b>Thursday 2/27/2014</b>	1pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
<b>Sunday 3/2/2014</b>	10 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
		Kent State Museum Trip

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2014**

**Lay Reader:** David Pastor  
**Head Usher:** Bob Candler  
**Ushers:** Kate Klonowski, Matt  
Wolbert, Joanne Cook,  
Jane Cribbs  
**Acolyte:** Carrie Coyer-Westerberg  
**Peace Cndl:** Amy Coyer-Westerberg  
**Sound:** Val Duffy  
**Commons:** Cliff Cribbs  
**Narthex:** Kathy Smith  
**Flowers:** Sue Stenzel  
**Nursery:** Kathy Pastor  
**Counters:** Mac Hoppel, Donn Whyte  
**Servers:** George & Carole Snider  
**Clean Up:** Jan Renovetz & Jon  
Thompson  
**Snacks:** Sue Stenzel, Diane Gressley  
**Snow Hrdr:** Cliff Cribbs

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**MARCH 2, 2014**

**Lay Reader:** Jon Thompson  
**Head Usher:** Bob Chandler  
**Ushers:** Dave & Julie Bernard, Fred  
Pesek, Sue Maier  
**Acolyte:** Jillian Davis  
**Peace Cndl:** Garrett Demko  
**Sound:** Kevin Smith  
**Commons:** Ruth Morris  
**Narthex:** George Snider  
**Flowers:** Kathy Pastor  
**Nursery:** Kate Klonowski  
**Counters:** Nancy Stella, Anna Mary  
Fisher  
**Servers:** Joy Garapic, Joanne Cook  
**Clean Up:** Chad & Bridget Sproul  
**Snacks:** Melissa Lund, Tia Began  
**Snow Herder:** Chad Sproul

## **Dorothy Mary Luti**

*"You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." - Psalm 139:14*

After some last minute drama with the birth mother—no one could find her for several days—a baby girl was safely delivered, ahead of schedule, on New Year's Day. After a short waiting period, the birth mother gave her final assent to the adoption, and the adoptive parents gave the baby a name—Dorothy, gift of God.

Soon after her birth, she began showing signs of drug withdrawal. She'd have to stay in the hospital until she finished treatment. No one could say how long. Her new parents would have to stay there too, complicating their plans with many unknowns.

When her new grandparents found out, they were alarmed. Her new aunts and uncles wondered if the adoption had been a good idea. Her new parents' friends texted and talked about people they knew whose adopted children had begun life like Dorothy, physically ill, laden with emotional question marks. Their stories about raising those kids were painful. Maybe it would've been better to hold out for a healthier birth mother, a healthier child.

But it was too late. The adoptive parents had already seen their child. They'd already given her her name. They'd already held her, smelled her smell, smoothed her damp dark hair. And, forgetting all the songs they ever knew, they'd made up new songs, just for her.

If you could hear them sing to their beautiful sick child, you would know who God is. You would have to remind yourself to breathe.

### **Prayer**

Nothing warns you away from us, O God. Nothing about us gives you pause. You don't look elsewhere for better children. You've already sung us our song, the one you made up just for us, sick and beautiful and wanted. Praise to you now and always. Amen.