



# BRECKSVILLE

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# 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*

Gracious Holy One, your love for us and for this world is clearly evident in the life and love of Jesus Christ. Open our hearts to follow his example, and to take-on the task of bringing hope and healing to a broken world. Help us to trust in your compassion, wisdom, and grace; and keep us grounded in your everlasting peace. Amen.

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**Sunday December 4, 2016 • 10:00 AM**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

*Pastor*

• Rev David Shackle

*Director of Music*

• David Debick

*Financial Secretary*

• Joy Garapic

*Ministers*

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, 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.

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

**Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 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 4, 2016 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## **Meditation Music**

Divine Source of hope and promise, when despair clouds our days, fill us with your Spirit, that we may recapture your vision of peace and justice. Inspire and empower us to put our faith into action, that we might truly be the ears and eyes, hands and feet of Jesus in our troubled and hurting world. Amen.

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**Prelude**

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Talbot

**Bearing the Light of Peace**

**Bearing the Light of Christ**

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

Leader: Compassionate Holy One, we come to you with our fears and our doubts,

**People: We bring before you our hopes and our joys!**

L: As we gather around your Table of Blessing,

**P: We seek your guidance, strength, and peace.**

L: We lay our lives before you,

**P: In anticipation of your being with us.**

L: We thank you for your gracious Presence,

**ALL: For your Spirit's abiding power, now and always!**

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
[verses 1, 2, and 7]

#116

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

**Gracious Holy One, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world idolizes the power that acts quickly through force, making it difficult for us to wait for the power of your Realm which comes patiently through love. We admit that while claiming to desire your Reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of violence, hatred and injustice. We turn now to your saving help. Forgive us, renew us, lead us, and show us how to prepare for your coming among us. Amen**

**\* The Assurance of Pardon**

L: One fact remains and will never change: God has loved us, loves us still, and will love us always. This is the Good News that brings us new life.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**\* Passing the Peace**

L: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ.

The Peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

**\* 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.

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**Lighting the Advent Candle**

**The Candle of Peace**

*As the Advent Candles are lighted, we will sing the second verse of the hymn, One Candle Is Lit*

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.

Leader: Our Second Advent Candle is the Candle of Peace.

**People: May the Peace of Christ come to our hearts today!**

L: Our world is clouded by violence, war and strife;

**P: May the light of Christ's peace shine upon our world!**

L: Jesus says, "You are the light of the world!"

**P: May the light of Christ shine through us, that we might be radiant signs of Divine Peace!**

## Time with Young Worshipers

The Old Testament	Isaiah 11:1-9	Pew Bible, page 640
The New Testament	Matthew 3: 1-12	Pew Bible, page 2
Continuing Testament	from <i>Let Us Have It!</i>	by Bradley Schmeling
Musical Offering	The Wilderness Shall Bloom [Betsey Wilson, flute]	Lantz III
Sermon	<i>That's Some Tough Talk!</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
Hymn of Reflection	Comfort, Comfort O My People [verse 1]	#101

## ***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.**

### Choral Response

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

### The Invitation

Offertory	Because I Have Been Given Much "Because I have been given much, I too must give; Because of thy great bounty, God, each day I live I shall divide my gifts from thee with everyone that I see Who has the need of help from me." Grace Noll Crowell, 1936	Landgrave
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**\*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' name. Amen!

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

Gracious Holy One, in this Advent season you call us to make our world ready for you once more. We present these gifts as a sign of our commitment to do so - by serving others in need and advancing Christ's Realm of justice and peace. Bless these offerings that we present here today, and bless us each day in our giving and in our living. This we pray in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## ***Holy Communion***

**Communion Hymn**

Eat This Bread  
[Sung twice]

#788

**The Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts!

**P: Our hearts rejoice in our Creator's Presence!**

L: Let us give thanks for the Spirit's abundant love!

**P: It is good to raise our thanks and praise!**

L: Gracious Holy One, in Jesus Christ you faithfully come to rescue and redeem all people; therefore we give you thanks, and we praise your Holy Name, saying,

**All: Holy, holy, holy, Divine Source of love and grace, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O Holy One Most High!**

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**The Invitation**

**Receiving the Bread and Cup**

**Communion Music**

Élévation et Communion

René Vierne

**Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]**

**Divine Source of New Life, with joy, we have received this Sacrament of Bread and Cup, remembering the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unite us with your faithful people throughout the world, that together we may continue Christ's ministry of love and service, to the glory of your Holy Name. Amen.**

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

**\* Hymn of Departure**                      O How Shall I Receive You                      #102

**\* 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 two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: '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.' Above the first staff, the chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E are indicated. Below the second staff, the chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A are indicated.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                      Fling Wide the Door                      Freylinghausen

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

Mary K. Headly, The Family Bill Harris, Bill Simpson, Jim Pay, Dorie Gabor, William Zmich, Ann Toneff, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, 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, November 27, 2016 – Adult: 78 Kids: 9 Total: 87

## ***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.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** There will be a Congregational Meeting right after Worship Service. Please plan to join us

**LAST SUNDAY'S FLOWERS** were given by Jane & Cliff Cribbs, in Memory of Loved ones.

**THIS SUNDAY'S FLOWERS** are given by Dan & Jan Renovetz in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.

**HERE WE COME A'CAROLING!** On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, our youth, children, and adults will meet at the church to go caroling to our homebound members. This is a great opportunity to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols while bringing a special greeting to those members who cannot regularly join us for worship. We will return to the church around 4:00 to warm ourselves with some hot chocolate and other goodies!

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** – Next Sunday December 11 at our regular morning service, BUCC's choir, supported by an instrumental ensemble and narrators, will present *Gift of Heaven*. The piece features stirring contemporary songs and several traditional carols. Please plan to join us on the 11<sup>th</sup> to enjoy this BUCC holiday tradition!

**THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** will be held on December 18th during services. We are rehearsing on Sundays during Sunday school but have also scheduled some additional rehearsals as follows: December 11th after church (11:30-2:00, lunch will be provided), December 17th (11:00-2:00, lunch will be provided). In addition, some of the songs will be practiced during Joyful Noise rehearsals on Thursdays at 5:30 the weeks leading up to the pageant. If your child is in the pageant, we really need them to participate in as many rehearsals as possible, particularly if they have a lot of lines or a larger role. Thank you!

### ***Readings***

**The Old Testament** - Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Holy One shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the reverence of God.

His delight shall be in devotion to the Holy One. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea.

### **The New Testament - Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the Realm of Heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

### **Continuing Testament - from *Let Us Have It!* - by Bradley Schmeling [edited]**

I would love to have had John the Baptist's job. Think of how fun it would be to have license to thunder judgment on the deserving! I know something about this because I'm an oldest child; and, of course, my job was to be the mighty moral force for my siblings. How satisfying it is to be the righteous one, to bear the fruit of morality and to tell those sinners to repent. The truth of it is that we all like to play the role of John the Baptist. Judgment makes us feel like we're right.

Being self-righteous makes us feel like we're worthy; and, of course, the way that most of us know that we're good, is by pointing out those who are bad.

If we're going to be really honest this Advent season, we probably need to be honest about our eagerness to judge rather than repent, our willingness to play the role of John the Baptist pointing out the sin of the world and our propensity to enjoy it.

What's Christmas without a little complaining about all those Christians who only come to church on Christmas Eve? What's Christmas if not thundering about the materialism and the commercialism of the season?

Preaching judgment is the easy part. Jesus, on the other hand, enters into the heart of human life, takes into himself all those things that separate us from God. His work ends, not in self-righteous satisfaction at letting those sinners have it. It ends at the cross when the power of sin and separation and self-righteousness is burned off like the morning dew. On Easter morning, what those sinners get is his ongoing life. We may indeed be worthy of judgment, but what we get from Jesus, is a pathway to new life.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Dec. 4</b>	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Congregational Mtg
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:30-2 pm	Pageant Practice (Lunch Provided)
	<b>*Deadline For Poinsettia Orders*</b>	
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry
<b>Wed., Dec. 7</b>	6:00 am	Early Birds
	7:00 pm	Spiritual Life
<b>Thurs., Dec. 8</b>	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7-9:00 pm	<b>Cantata Practice w/ Instruments &amp; Narrator</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 10</b>	10:00 am	Cantata Practice <b>w/ Instruments &amp; Narrator</b>
	12:00 pm	<b>Cantata at Chippewa Pl. Choir/Narrator only</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 11</b>	10:00 am	Worship Service/Cantata <b>*LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS*</b>
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	2:00 pm	Christmas Caroling

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**DEC. 4, 2016**

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley  
Head Usher: Bridget Sproul  
Ushers: Dan Stewart, Betsey Wilson  
Vicki Szabo, Jim Duffy  
Acolyte: Grace Hunt  
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt  
Sound: Tim Wallis  
Comns Grtr: Carole Snider  
Narthex Grtr: Evie Novak  
Flowers: Carole Snider  
Nursery: Valerie Tyler  
Counters: Donn Whyte, Jim Duffy  
Servers: Julie Bernard, Sue Stenzel  
Clean Up: Bridget & Chad Sproul  
Snacks: Gina Cook, Heidi Spangler  
Snow Herder: Jim Demko

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**DEC. 11, 2016**

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs  
Head Usher: Evie Novak  
Ushers: Sam Koch, John Thompson  
Jane Cribbs, Diane Gressley  
Acolyte: Ben Davis  
Peace Candle: Jillian Davis  
Sound: Doug Fawcett  
Comns Grtr: George Snider  
Narthex Grtr: Sue Stenzel  
Flowers: Poinsettias  
Nursery: Gina Cook  
Counters: Carole Snider, Jan Renovetz  
Servers: Marge Culver, Joanne Cook  
Clean-Up: Kathy & David Pastor  
Snacks: Peg Duffy, Kathleen Stewart  
Snow Herder: Jim Farwell

**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 4**



***I Enclose \$12.00\_\_\_\_\_ or other\_\_\_\_\_ for Poinsettias***

***In Memory \_\_\_\_\_ or Honor \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_***

***Of \_\_\_\_\_***  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Your Name***

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***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 \_\_\_\_\_***