



# 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*

Compassionate Holy One, in our busy and consumer-driven world, you call us to be patient. You invite us to trust in your abundance, generosity, and care. Help us hear your call to be open and charitable with others; and to respond to your being gracious to us, by our being gracious to all those we encounter. This we pray in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.



## First Sunday *of* Advent

**Sunday, December 2, 2018 • 10:00 AM**

### **First 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, 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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## December 2, 2018 – First Sunday Of Advent

### Meditation Music

Gracious Source of Life and Love, we thank you for showing the fullness of your compassion to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Inspire us by Christ's wonderful example, so that we in turn may show compassion - and be truly helpful - to our sisters and brother in need. Amen.

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

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Advent Gathering

Daigle

"Come, O hope of your people.  
Come among us and stay.  
Lead us in mercy up from the shadows,  
Shine in our darkness, be here today."  
Rory Cooney, b. 1952

### **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**

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

#122

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

**Gracious Holy One, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force. How difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit that while claiming to desire your Reign of Peace and Justice, we take part in the ways of war, 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

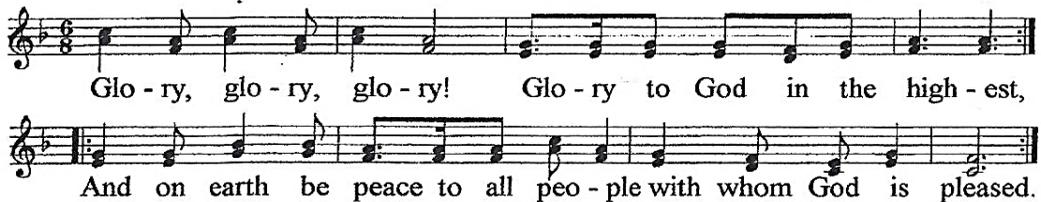
L: As forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you!

**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

*As the first Advent Candle is lighted, we will sing the first verse of the hymn, One Candle Is Lit*

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
Our hearts long to greet you, as flowers, the light.  
Salvation draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the Hope of the Age.

Leader: Bless to our use, O Holy One, this shining light.

**People: Let it reflect our hopes and dreams, as we prepare for your coming.**

L: Shine through the darkness and enlighten our lives,

**P: That we may see the signs of your coming among us.**

L: Warm our hearts and illuminate our souls,

**P: That we may rejoice in the knowledge that you are with us always!**

### Time with Young Worshipers

**The Old Testament**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Pew Bible, page 738

**The New Testament**

Luke 21:25-36

Pew Bible, page 85

**Continuing Testament**

from *Advent Possible*

by Alyce M. McKenzie

<b>Anthem</b>	Maranatha, Jesu	Keil
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>There <b>Will</b> Be Signs!</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
<b>Hymn of Reflection</b>	We Hail You God's Anointed	#104

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

**Silent Meditation**

**Prayers of the Church**

**The Prayer of Jesus**

*[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**

<b>Offertory</b>	Offertoire pour l'Avent	Chauvet
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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**

O Food to Pilgrims Given

16th century French

"O Food to pilgrims given,

O Bread of life from heaven,

O Manna from on high!

We hunger; Lord, supply us,

nor thy delights deny us,

whose hearts to thee draw nigh."

Latin, 1661; trans. John A. L. Riley (1858-1945), alt.

## **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      Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates      #117

\*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

Two staves of musical notation 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. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Chords are indicated above and below the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

### \*Benediction

Postlude      Wait for the Lord Berthier      (Taizé Community)

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

Suzanne Patrick, Niece of Kathy Smith, Pat Bailey, Fred Pesek, Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoaka, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, 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 November 25, 2018 – Adults: 68 Kids: 10 Total: 78

## ***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 our Coffee Hour.

**WE WELCOME 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 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.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are given by Marla Corrado in Loving Memory of her late Father, William Zmich. You are loved and missed every day.

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO COMMITTEE CAIRS:** If no budget figures are submitted for 2019, the past year's figures will be used.

**LET'S GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING!** Next Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, following Coffee Hour and a light lunch, our youth, children, and adults will depart from 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 Christmas greeting to those members who cannot regularly join us for worship. Please plan to join us - and invite a friend!

**IN THE NARTHEX** stands a small tree on a table. On the tree are "ornaments" with names and hoped for items on them. The idea is for BUCC members and friends to select an "ornament" and pick the item and return it in a gift-wrapped package by December 16<sup>th</sup>. We have faith that BUCC members and friends will provide the items that the young persons at the Prentiss Autism Center hope to receive for Christmas. The December Pillar has more information about this effort to provide Christmas spirit for these students who have problems.

**THE MITTEN TREE** in the narthex is nearly bare of items. The previous "ornaments" have been taken to a hunger center to be distributed when families receive food and other items. The mitten tree angels supplied five! bags of hats and mittens! This magic tree will probably fill up two or three times before the cold weather is over, which says something about the view of BUCC members and friends about outreach.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** - On Sunday December 16 at our 10 AM service, BUCC's choir will present the Christmas musical, *Christmas Seekers*, by John Purifoy. The dynamic work features both traditional and contemporary sacred music. The choir will be accompanied by flutes, trumpets, trombone, violin, percussion, and narrators. Plan to join us for this BUCC holiday tradition. Bring a friend!

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** The Christmas Pageant this year will be *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and will be presented next Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> during the service. Every year the children and CE volunteers get us in the Christmas spirit! We hope you will be able to join us for this very special, meaningful, and fun tradition!

**LAST-MINUTE MART!** On Sunday, December 16th (during coffee hour after the Cantata), we invite those who have crafts or gifts to sell to bring them to BUCC! For a suggested donation of only \$25, you can set up a table in Pilgrim Hall to offer items to sell to support your small business, crafty habit, baking, or charity efforts. The rest of us can then enjoy shopping for Christmas presents! To sign up for table space, please contact Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 [keightykay@gmail.com](mailto:keightykay@gmail.com) or during coffee hour. All proceeds will benefit the Pastor's Fund!

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR NORTHEAST OHIO SPCA** on Brookpark Road. It is a no kill shelter and the animals are cared for there until they find a forever home. The items needed are: old blankets, bedding/linens, towels, pet items like collars, toys, beds, food/water bowls, Purina dog and cat food, and anything else that might be good for pets. If church members would like to donate, they can give the items to me at any time or just leave them on the pew in the entry way with my name or "pet shelter donation" written on them. I'll collect them whenever they are placed there. If anyone has any other questions, they can contact me. Thanks! Marla Corrado.

## ***Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Holy One, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Holy One is our righteousness."

### **The New Testament - Luke 21:25-36**

*Jesus says* "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the Divine Realm is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ►

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**Continuing Testament** - from *Advent Possible* - by Alyce M. McKenzie [edited]

To prepare for Jesus' future Advent [or coming], we need to notice and respond to his current presence. The problem is, we are pretty good at noticing what we want and ignoring what we don't. There are lots of situations that are already present and developing in our lives that we manage to ignore. There are things happening right now that we aren't noticing but that, eventually, will demand our total attention and immediate response.

Our children or grandchildren are growing up, while we are preoccupied with responsibilities and anxieties. Soon they will stand nearly grown before us, and we'll wonder where the time went. Conditions are occurring within our bodies with symptoms we may be ignoring that, one day, will demand our attention. A relationship may be fading due to lack of attention, and one day we may face its loss with surprise, because we didn't see it coming. Climate change, economic crises, the rise of religious intolerance - things are happening, and it shouldn't just be the professional futurists who are taking note. There will come a time, if there hasn't already, when these developments demand our immediate and full attention.

On the positive side, there are relationships and opportunities that are open to us that we may still notice, but we must wake-up and do our part. We must be alert and be at prayer, so that we are "bearing good fruit". We are to stand-up and raise our heads, for our redemption is drawing near. Jesus did not give-in to fear and foreboding; instead he prayerfully sought strength for what lay ahead. We would do well to follow his example in all our days to come.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 2	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	OCWM
Mon., Dec. 3	1:00 pm	Book Discussion
Thurs., Dec. 6	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	4:30 pm	Rec/Dul/Gtr
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
		*Pageant Practice*
Friday, Dec. 7		*Office Closed*
Sunday, Dec. 9	10:00 am	Worship Service/Pageant
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	1:00 pm	Caroling
		After Worship/Lunch

### PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICE DECEMBER 2, 2018

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart  
Head Usher: Anne Melfo  
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler,  
Dan & Ian Stewart  
Acolyte: Jillian Davis  
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski  
Sound: David Pastor  
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver  
Flowers: Carole Snider  
Nursery: Courtni Began  
C.E Teacher: Gina Cook (pageant Practice)  
Counters: Nancy Stella, Dave Bernard  
Servers: Carole Snider, Julie Bernard  
Clean-up: Jan Renovetz, Sue Stenzel  
Snacks: Betty Kaul, Dot Bailey  
Snow Hrdr: Cliff Cribbs

### PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE DECEMBER 9, 2018

Lay Reader: Tia Began  
Head Usher: Jill Zedan  
Ushers: Cliff Cribbs, Darlene Kelly,  
Kathy Smith, Dave Bernard  
Acolyte: Grace Hunt  
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt  
Sound: Tim Wallis  
Comns Grtr: Max Roha  
Flowers: Jan Renovetz  
Nursery: Kathy Pastor  
C. E Teacher: Kate Klonowski (Pageant)  
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Sue Stenzel  
Servers: Betty Kaul, Joan Cook  
Snacks: Gina Cook, Beth Rehling  
Snow Hrdr: Dan Stewart

**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 9**



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