

First Sunday of Christmas

December 27th, 2020

“God is here. This truth should fill our lives, and every Christmas should be for us a new and special meeting with God.” –Josemaría Escrivía, *Christ Is Passing By*

Announcements

WELCOME to all guests or visitors worshiping with us today in this Zoom format! We are doing everything we can to keep the service open to all, yet secure. In the eventuality of a disruption of the service, we will email information on how to re-enter the service with a password.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - We encourage you to share this service with your children, as well as take part in the virtual activities with Ms. Mindy at 9:30 (1/2 hour before every service). The link for this can be found in the email you may have received, on our Facebook page and/or on our church website: <https://brecksvilleucc.orghttps://brecksvilleucc.org/services/childrens-time-online/>

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – Our final congregational meeting for 2020 will be held at 11:00 this morning, immediately following the service. Please stay logged into Zoom after the service ends. The handout for this meeting was emailed to members last night (Saturday, 12/26).

THE MITTEN TREE: The Mitten Tree is set up in the lower lobby of the church (inside the back door). It is so wonderful to watch its magical branches fill up with donations for our neighbors in need. As usual, your generosity has been inspiring! You are welcome to continue bringing in any new/gently-used (or newly-created!) hats, mittens, gloves and scarves, which will find new homes when we provide hunger meals (the next one is on 1/24!). For those who are able to deliver their items to the church, please call the office the day before you come, so we can make sure the back doors are unlocked when you arrive. The number at the church is **(440)-526-4364**.

(If you have a contribution but are unable to get to the church, please reach out to **Kate Klonowski** at **(216) 534-3498** or keightykay@gmail.com, to arrange for a pickup.)

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

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

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or
sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background,
creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic
circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions,
impairments, or mobility needs,

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!***

Announcements (continued)

PASTOR SEARCH AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Over the next few weeks, the PSNC will be calling everyone from the BUCC and asking for your participation in a brief survey about our Church. Your input is essential in the process of selecting a new full-time pastor. You will be contacted by one of the following members of the committee: Beth Rehling, Ben Rehling, Jon Thompson, Cliffs Cribbs, Joy Garapic, Sherrill Witt and Alan Klonowski. For more information, call Sherrill Witt at 216-244-6916, or Cliff Cribbs at 216-970-6347. Thank you in advance for your insights!

THE PASTOR IS IN! Pastor Allan is available every Tuesday, between 11 am and noon. You can contact him either by mail, email or phone - feel free to call either the church or his cell phone directly. You can also catch him online, by clicking on the same Zoom link that we use for Sunday services. He'd love to hear from you! Here's his contact information:

- BUCC address: **23 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141**
- Email: **buccpastor@sbcglobal.net**
- BUCC Office phone: **(440) 526-4364**
- Pastor Allan's cell phone: **(513) 417-1537**
- Zoom link: **<https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>**

WEEKLY COLLECTION is still happening! Please don't forget to send in your pledges to the church by mail or (preferably) PayPal! Check out **[BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving](https://www.brecksvilleucc.org/giving)** for more info.

******2021 PLEDGE COLLECTION ENVELOPES** -- The small collection envelopes for next year have arrived. Joy has placed them on the pew bench just inside the back doors. If you would like a box, please call the church office to make arrangements for pickup. If you can't pick them up, call **440-526-4364**, and Anne will mail them to you.****

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be the Zoom Host or the Slide Runner, (both very easy and done from the comfort of your own home!), please reach out to Heidi Spangler at **heidi@heidihoonthego.com**. We'd love to teach you.

COFFEE HOUR! After the service, we welcome all attendees to stay on Zoom to enjoy some time and fellowship with each other. Brew your favorite fairly-traded coffee or tea and a snack and catch up with friends!

*Many thanks for your donations of
time, money, and talent!*

Gathering in God's Presence

"Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you."
 –Steve Maraboli, from ***Unapologetically You: Reflections on Life and the Human Experience***

Prelude:

Angels' Carol

Rutter

Call to Worship:

- Leader (Betsey): Worship, worship, Christ was born to save!
- **People (Sue): Praise, praise, He'll raise us from the grave!**
- Leader: Glory, glory, to Christ our infant king!
- **People: Rejoice, rejoice, let loose your tongues and sing!**
- Leader: Love, love, the God who saves your soul!
- **People: Honor, honor, the One who makes you whole!**
- Leader: Go, go, spread the news abroad:
- **People: Come, come, let us worship God!**

Carol of Praise:

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

From Mendelssohn's "Festgesang," 1840

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christ-child bring;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"
 Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies;
 With the angel host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
 Late in time the Savior comes, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
 Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
3. Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness,
 Light and life our Savior brings, risen with radiant, healing wings.
 Mildly laying glory by, born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.

REFRAIN

REFRAIN

**REFRAIN: Hark! the herald
 angels sing, "Glory to the
 Christ-child bring!"**

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- **People (Sue):** God in the little child, /God in the growing son, /God in the loving man, /God in the Holy One, /God who lay in cattle stall, /God who gave his life for all, /God who lay in silent grave, /God who rose our life to save, /have mercy on us now with grace, /so that when we leave this earthly place /and rise with You to heaven above, /we might there know Your boundless love, /and ever after, with all the saints, /free from sorrow, tears, complaints, /live at peace forevermore, /praising You whom we adore. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- **Leader (Betsey):** As Simeon said in the temple, on seeing the infant Jesus: “Lord, now dismiss your servant in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation.”
- **People (Sue):** The Savior has come. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen

Readings

First Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7 *When the time was right*

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

Luke 2: 22-40 *Simeon and Anna meet Jesus*

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

(continued on next page)

Carol of Reflection: *Away in a Manger* Attrib. to J. R. Murray

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; protect me, I pray,
and stay by my side until night turns to day.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.
(Anon., United States, 1885; st. 3, 1892; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Friends and family of Betty Gifford, Lenore Harris, Susan Renovetz, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Joanne Cook, Sheila Day (friend of the Sniders), Joanne K. and Jim C. (friends of Ed & June Puwal), Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Suerick (niece of Kathy Smith), Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

➤ **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.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation:

- Leader (Betsey): We do not know who we are without God, but we do know that with God we are kind and generous, thinking of others and not only ourselves, dedicated to justice, devoted to showing God's love to all the world. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God.

BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving

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:

- People (Sue): Christmas is a time of gifts, because at Christmas You gave us the greatest gift of all, O God. Accept these gifts from us in celebration of Your gift to us. Amen

Hymn of Departure:

Go Tell It on the Mountain

African American spiritual, arr. J. W. Work II, 1907

**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

(Adapt. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World:

Circle of Community

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:

Wake from Your Sleep

Schutte

Special Thanks

December 27, 2020

Lay Reader	Betsey Wilson
Responder	Sue Stenzel
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	Sue Maier

January 3, 2020

Lay Reader	Matt Wolbert
Responder	Rose Kaval
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	Heidi Spangler

Thank You for Joining Us!

