

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 10, 2017 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Bonni Dunlap, Liturgist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Marilyn Neal, Organist

Lighting of the Candles

Introit # 463 vs. 4

"Revive Us Again"

*Revive us again: fill each heart with thy love;
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory; Hallelujah, Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory; revive us again.*

Call to Worship (*Psalm 85*)

Leader: Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**People: You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.**

Leader: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**People: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

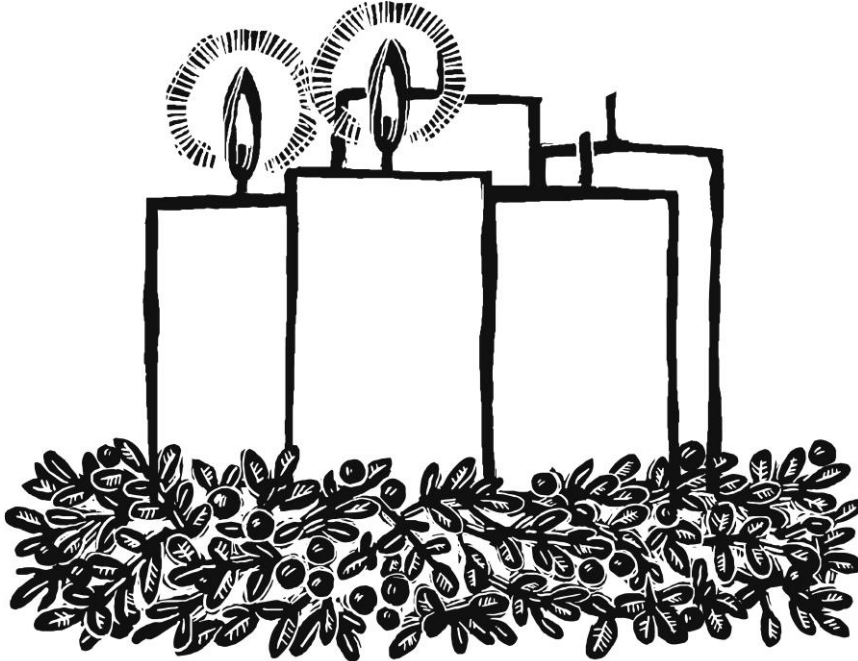
**People: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

Leader: The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**People: Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

*Hymn # 176

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

*"a community of believers, called by God, led by the Holy Spirit
to know Christ and to make Christ known"*

Rev. Timothy R. Monroe

137 N. Walnut Street ~ Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

Church office 724-459-7991

e-mail: upchurch@r-church.com; website: www.r-church.com

Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

*Prayer of Confession

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You call us to repent, but we turn away from you. You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for you. Forgive us, God of grace. Embrace us with tender mercy so that we may be at one with you when all your glory is revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

John & Mary Hileman

*A Candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease:
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

Reception of New Members

Sacrament of Baptism

*Sharing of the Peace

*Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11 (pg. 667 of OT)

Anthem

"Every Valley"

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8 (pg. 34 of NT)

Sermon

Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

(Westminster Confession of Faith)

God in infinite and perfect love, having provided in the covenant of grace, through the mediation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a way of life and salvation, sufficient for and adapted to the whole lost race of man, doth freely offer this salvation to all men in the gospel. In the gospel God declares his love for the world and his desire that all men should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy; and by his Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with men to accept his gracious invitation.

*Hymn # 156

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (*debt...and debtors...*)

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 158

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

*(*All who are able, please stand)*

PLEASE JOIN us in the ritual of friendship by signing the attendance pads that are at one end of each of the pews. If you are here for the first time, we would appreciate it if you would give us your local telephone number. Please help yourself to a church brochure, a *Welcome Packet* or a copy of our newsletter, *Uplift*. These are available at the back of the church. We thank you for joining your voice to ours in sacred worship.

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Bonni Dunlap; Ushers, Jeff & Kathie Kirkland, Irving Lindsey; Projector, Alex Kirkland; Audio, Andrew Baker; Organist, Marilyn Neal; and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Alice Doak.

WE WELCOME three new members to the congregation this morning. All will join through affirmation of faith. They include: Heather Clawson and Ken & Eileen Brown. Please be sure to greet them following worship.

OUR DEVOTIONAL this Advent season is entitled, "Oh Holy Night!" by Sarah Reinhard. May this devotional serve you and your family well, helping you to prepare for the arrival of our Savior with prayer and action. Devotionals are available at the back of the sanctuary.

GRANNIES will meet Monday, December 11th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Grannies also have a display of items for sale to support their ministry. Please see the bulletin insert for more information.

BELL CHOIR rehearsal will be held Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room. If you would like more information on the bell choir, please see Vicky Westley.

THE PRAYER CHAIN is coordinated by the Adult Sunday School Class. If you have a prayer request or know of someone's need for prayer, please contact Nancy Campbell or the church office. Requests are kept in confidence.

LITURGISTS are an important part of our worship service. If you are interested in assisting in worship as a liturgist or would like more information, please see Elaine Jellison.

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR will rehearse Wednesday, December 13th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Cantata rehearsal will follow choir at 7:45 p.m. If you enjoy singing and are interested in sharing your gift, there is always room in the choir. For more information, please contact Cindy Borbonus.

FAMILIES in the congregation are asked to donate 4 dozen cookies, candies, or holiday treats for our Annual Holiday Cookie Sale to be held Saturday, December 16th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All baked goods may be dropped off in a disposable container on Friday, December 15th from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m. or 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to help contact Erica Ash, Nancy Hartmann or the church office.

THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY are invited to purchase delicious holiday treats for gift giving, holiday parties, etc. on Saturday, December 16th. Who has time to bake dozens of different cookies? No need, just make your best cookies and shop for the rest! Cookies are \$7.00/pound and all proceeds benefit the Pathway Homeless Shelter.

THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA will be presented to the congregation Sunday, December 17th during morning worship. “Invitation to a Miracle” is the title of this year's cantata. We hope you will plan to come and listen to the sounds of the season!

A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be presented by our Sunday School students Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. Those participating are asked to be at the church by 5:00 p.m. to rehearse. All are invited!

JOIN IN the fun and come to the Blairsville Monday Music Club Christmas Concert at Saint Simon and Jude Catholic Church December 11th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

THE 2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. They have been placed in alphabetical order for your convenience. If we missed you or you would like to have envelopes, please contact the church office, 724-459-7991.

THE 2018 FLOWER CHART is hanging in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to order flowers for Sunday worship, please use the chart to sign-up for your choice of date. Flowers are \$20/Sunday and checks can be made payable to the Board of Deacons.

REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS:

Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		New Members & Baptism
		<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>
Monday	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts Meeting
Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Daisy Troop Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	7:45 p.m.	Cantata Rehearsal
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Friday	9:00-3:00 p.m.	Cookie drop-off
	4:00-7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Christmas Party
	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Cookie drop-off
Saturday	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Cookie Walk in Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Cantata Rehearsal
		Fellowship Hall reserved
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata
	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Program Rehearsal
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Program
		<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>