



— THIRD 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

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Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 17, 2017 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude "Invitation-Overture" Organ & Piano Duet

Lighting of the Candles

Introit # 63 "Give to Our God Immortal Praise"
*He sent His Son with power to save
From guilt and darkness and the grave:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat his mercies in your song.*

Call to Worship (Psalm 126)

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Leader: Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**People: The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**People: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

*Hymn # 67 "Come, We That Love the Lord"

*Prayer of Confession

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
You send your Spirit to release us, yet we remain captivated by
sin. You stand among us in Christ Jesus, yet we claim we do not
know you. Forgive us, God of grace. Make us holy; make us
whole. Keep us safe and sound until the day of your coming;
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 The Clayton Family

*A Candle is burning, a candle of joy,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

*Sharing of the Peace

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

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"Invitation to a Miracle"

By Joseph M. Martin

"A Processional of Hope"

Children's Choir

"Joy Arising"

Ken Doak – soloist

Eli Borbonus – tambourine

"Your Light Has Come"

"My Soul Rejoices in the Lord"

Janet Smith – soloist

"A Celtic Cradle Carol"

Beverly Lindsey & Dave Hiltabidle – soloists

"Alleluia! Christ Is Born!"

"Would I Miss the Miracle?"

"A Gloria Gathering"

Angels from the Realms of Glory, Angels We Have Heard on High,

Sing We Now of Christmas, O Come All Ye Faithful

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – congregation joins

*Benediction

*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 Ushers, Sunday School Students, Joan Moran and Jen Borbonus; Projector, Kayla Moran; Audio, Tyler Moran; Organist, Marilyn Neal; and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

THE BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS in the sanctuary this morning are given in memory and honor of loved ones by many in the congregation. Please see the bulletin insert. A special thank you to Naomi Sigafoes and the deacons for their work in arranging to have the flowers for the Christmas celebration!

A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be presented by our Sunday School students today at 3:00 p.m. Those participating are asked to be at the church by 2:00 p.m. All are invited!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP services are scheduled. Early worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. The service will include candlelight and the sacrament of communion. A traditional candlelight and communion service will be held at 11:00 p.m. All are welcome to worship with us.

WE WILL CELEBRATE the sacrament of Holy Communion next Sunday during the evening worship services. Please take time this week to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.

OUR DEVOTIONAL this Advent season is entitled, "Oh Holy Night!" by Sarah Reinhard. Devotionals are available at the back of the sanctuary.

THE SESSION will meet Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. New elders are reminded that they are invited to attend this meeting. Session packets are available to pick up in the parlor.

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.

BELL CHOIR rehearsal will be held Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room. If you would like more information on the bell choir, please see Vicky Westley.

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR will rehearse Wednesday, December 20th 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 see Cindy Borbonus.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING around town will be held Friday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m. We'll walk around town spreading Christmas cheer! Everyone is invited. For more information, please see Jen Borbonus.

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.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS and treasurers are reminded that reports are requested for the annual Congregational Meeting. Please have your report to the church office by Sunday, January 21st. If you have any questions or need information from the office, contact Jill during office hours at 724-459-7991 or email at upchurch@r-church.com.

THE COUPONS FOR VETERANS PROGRAM is going great! We are over the \$100,000 mark sending them to the Veterans Overseas and we want to thank everyone for their participation. Because of time constraints, we are now accepting only cut coupons. Please have them cut apart before dropping them off in the box. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA PARTICIPANTS

CHOIR MEMBERS

Sopranos

Peg Lockard
Jamie McKinney
Bobbi Monroe
*Janet Smith
Janeen Swope
Vicky Westley
Bass
*Dave Hiltabidle

Altos

Mary Anzelone
Bonni Dunlap
*Beverly Lindsey
Judy Trimble
Tenors
*Ken Doak
Pastor Tim Monroe

DIRECTOR

Cindy Borbonus

ACCOMPANIST

Marilyn Neal

NARRATORS

Jen Borbonus and Dennis Gould

*soloist