



# 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](mailto:upchurch@r-church.com); website: [www.r-church.com](http://www.r-church.com)

Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 4, 2016 ~ 11:00 AM

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Mary Anzelone, 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

Austin Baker, Acolyte

Introit # 158

*"Blessed Be the God of Israel"*

***Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,***

***Who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.***

***The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;***

***God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.***

Call to Worship (*Psalms* 72)

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**People: May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.**

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**People: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,  
until the moon is no more.

**People: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.  
Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.**

\*Hymn # 176

*"Lift Up Your Heads"*

\*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt  
and destroy one another; we neglect the poor and hungry. We  
let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us;  
deliver us; prepare the way for us, so that we may be ready to  
enter into your presence, 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 Harvey Family

***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.***

\*Sharing of the Peace

\*Time with the Younger Saints

### **DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10 (pg. 640 of OT)

Anthem

***"Rise Up, Come On and Get Ready"***

Chancel Choir, Director, Cindy Borbonus

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12 (pg. 2 of NT)

Sermon

Rev. Timothy Monroe

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

\*Affirmation of Faith

*(The 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 # 191

***"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"***

\*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, Mary Anzelone; Acolyte, Austin Baker; Advent Readers, the Harvey family; Ushers, Ron & Kim McKinney, Velma Crawford and Patrick Swope; Projector, Jonathan Clayton; Audio, Alex 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 Joe and Elaine Jellison.

THE DEACONS will check blood pressures following worship today. If you would like to have your numbers checked, please see Susie Cotti.

THE FOOD BANK will distribute groceries from Fellowship Hall Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Please bring proof of residence when signing up for the first time.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Newly elected deacons for 2017 are also invited to attend this meeting.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. There are two open positions in the three octave choir. If you are interested in more information, please see Vicky Westley, director.

CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Christmas cantata rehearsals will be held Wednesdays at 7:45 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate in the special music is invited to attend rehearsals. The cantata will be presented Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Cindy Borbonus.

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.

CPR TRAINING is being coordinated by the Deacons. If you are interested in attending a training event, please call the church office at 724-459-7991 or see Susie Cotti. The date will be set according to the availability of attendees.

*Thank you to all who helped make our Thanksgiving Dinner a success again this year. To those who prepared food, set up and cleaned up, those who contributed monetarily, the worship speakers and especially all the kitchen help, it was much appreciated. ~ The Thanksgiving Team*

THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE will meet with staff for annual reviews Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the church parlor.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group gathers for fellowship and to work on personal projects. Anyone interested is welcome to join the group.

THE BLAIRSVILLE AREA MINISTERIUM will meet Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at SS Simon & Jude Church.

COOKIES WANTED...The Evangelism committee is asking all families in the congregation to donate at least 4 dozen cookies, candies, or holiday treats (no cupcakes, cakes, or pies) for our Annual Holiday Cookie Sale to be held Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your fellow bakers, family, friends, co-workers, groups or organizations to participate. All baked goods may be dropped off in a disposable container on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Also, volunteers are needed to help with the sale on December 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or would like to help contact Nancy Hartmann or the church office. A sign-up sheet is located in the back of the sanctuary. Please let us know what kind of cookie you will be donating so we don't have too many duplicates!

THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY are invited to purchase delicious holiday treats for gift giving, holiday parties, etc. 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.

OFFICER TRAINING is scheduled for next Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship. Please bring a bag lunch and plan to stay for a time of conversation.

POINSETTIA ORDERS are due today. If you would like to purchase a flower to have placed in the sanctuary during the Christmas season, please use the bulletin insert. Checks should be made payable to the Board of Deacons.

“HOPE-FULL LIVING” is the title of this year's Advent devotional booklet. Please help yourself to a copy located at the back of the sanctuary.

THE 2017 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 2017 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.

THE MONDAY MUSIC CLUB is welcoming all singers to rehearsals for the Community Christmas Concert to be held Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. All practices and the concert will be held at the C&MA Church in Blairsville. The schedule follows.

Rehearsal - Monday, December 5..... 7:00 p.m.  
Rehearsal - Saturday, December 10..... 3:00 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 4 will hold a Chili/Soup Cook-Off Fundraiser today from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. A special children's menu of nuggets and fries will be available. Donations of \$10 per adult and \$5 per children ages 5-11 will be accepted.

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA will be held Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Saving Grace Church in Indiana. Homeschoolers for Christ Coop will present “The Night Shift before Christmas.” A love offering will be accepted at the door. Hope to see you there.

## REGULAR WORSHIP CALENDAR

<b>Today</b>	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Blood Pressure checks
<b>Monday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	12:00 p.m.	Food Bank distribution
	6:00 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	5:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee meet with staff
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	7:45 p.m.	Cantata Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Historical Society Meeting
<b>Thursday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
<b>Friday</b>	11:00 a.m.	Ministerium Meeting
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Cookie Walk in Fellowship Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Officer Training
	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved