



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

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 6, 2015 ~ 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 # 170 vs. 2 *"My Soul Proclaims with Wonder"*

My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord,

Rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored.

God's mercy shields the faithful and saves them from defeat,

With strength that turns to scatter the proud in their conceit.

Call to Worship (*Luke 1*)

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people
and redeemed them.

**People: He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,**

Leader: as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets
from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.

**People: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant.**

*Hymn # 158 *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"*

*Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, we confess that we resist your holy realm. You
come with fire to cleanse us, yet we remain in our corruption.
You come with water to save us, yet we persist in our sin.
Forgive us, God of grace. Prepare the way in us to greet the one
who is coming, so that we may see your salvation; 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.*

*Sharing of the Peace

*Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson Malachi 3:1-4 (pg. 889 of OT)

Anthem *"Every Valley"*

Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:1-6 (pg. 60 of NT)

Sermon Rev. Timothy R. 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 (*"...debts...and debtors"*)

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 153 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

*Benediction and Choral Response

*Postlude

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, John & Mary Hileman; Ushers, Nancy Boone, Kim, Shakira and Ron McKinney; Projection, 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 Alice Santoro.

THE DEACONS will check blood pressures following worship next Sunday. If you would like to have your numbers checked, please see Kim McKinney or Beverly Lindsey.

A WYOTECH LUNCHEON will be served Tuesday, December 8th at 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

THE CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE will meet Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m.

THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE will meet with staff Wednesday, December 9th beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the parlor.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, December 9th at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

THE DAISY TROOP will meet in Fellowship Hall Wednesday, December 9th at 5:30 p.m.

WIC will meet in Fellowship Hall Thursday, December 10th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

OFFICER TRAINING will be held for new and oncoming elders and deacons Sunday, December 14th following worship.

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 Shirley McLaughlin.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH will sponsor a vaccination clinic at the Blairsville Community Center December 16 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. You are eligible for vaccines at low or no cost if you are underinsured or uninsured. Please call the PA Dept. of Health at 724-357-2995 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

OUR BELL CHOIR rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. We still need ringers for our lower octaves. We would love to have you join us. No experience necessary, we'll train you. If you have questions or are interested in ringing, please see Vicky Westley, director or a bell choir member.

CHOIR REHEARSALS are held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always appreciated. We will be rehearsing special music for the holidays on Wednesdays at 7:45 p.m. If you are interested in participating during this time, we would love to have you. For more information, please see Cindy Borbonus or come to rehearsals Wednesdays. You're always welcome.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS can be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. This year's devotional is entitled, "The Jesse Tree" by Debra Grant. It includes a daily devotion for personal growth each day of Advent. Please take one and share one with a friend.

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 19th, 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 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 18th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions contact Erica Ash or the church office. A sign-up sheet will be placed 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.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS will be ordered this week. If you are interested in purchasing a flower in memory or honor of a loved one, please let us know by completing the bulletin insert. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

CALLING ALL KIDS...Kid's Day Out 2015 will be held Saturday, December 12th from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Christmas program rehearsal will follow at 3:30 p.m. Please see the bulletin insert for more information or to register.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jill Wolford for achieving 15 years of service on December 4 as our financial secretary. For all that are working to accomplish God's work through this church, it is well recognized the degree to which Jill factors into our successes. Anyone wishing to recognize Jill may send a personal thank you to the church office.

MISSION MOMENT - Human Rights Day

Do you know a human rights worker? It is possible, maybe even likely, you do. It is possible, maybe even likely, that the worker is you. Perhaps you work for an organization that protects human rights. Thanks be to God for your important calling. But there are other ways to work for human rights. We work in those ways as we follow Jesus, loving as he loved. Do you support human rights organizations financially? Have you sent a letter or an email message on behalf of an individual or group whose rights were threatened? Do you see God's image in all human beings? Do you recognize that all people have dignity, worth, and value because God creates us as God's children? Do you work in any way to honor that dignity, worth, and value? If you do, you are a human rights worker. As we live into God's vision of justice and peace and honor and respect for the people we encounter in our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities and around God's world, we work for human rights. May we do so today and every day.

REGULAR WORSHIP CALENDAR

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	11:00-12:00 p.m.	WyoTech Luncheon
	6:00 p.m.	Christian Ed Meeting
Wednesday	4:30 p.m.	Personnel meets with staff
	5:30 p.m.	Worship Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Daisy Troop meets in Fellowship Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
	7:45 p.m.	Cantata rehearsal
Thursday	9:00-3:00 p.m.	WIC meets in Fellowship Hall
Saturday	11:00-3:00 p.m.	Kids Day Out
	3:30 p.m.	Kids Program rehearsal
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Officer Training
	12:00 p.m.	Blood Pressure checks
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved