

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE
December 15, 2019 ~ 11:00 AM
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Deb Lint, 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 Organ and Piano Duet

Lighting of the Candles Brady Doak, Acolyte

Introit # 56 *“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”*

Call to Worship (*Psalm 146*)

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**People: Who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

Leader: Who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free.

**People: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

Leader: The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**People: The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!**

*Hymn # 153 *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We
praise the high and mighty and look down upon the lowly.
We have great faith in human efforts and little patience for
your way. Forgive us; deliver us; strengthen our hearts by
your Spirit, so that we may be ready to greet the Savior you
send, 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 Artman 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

*Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10 (pg. 663 of OT)

Anthem *“When Will Messiah Come?”*

Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

New Testament Lesson James 5:7-10 (pg. 231 of NT)

Sermon Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith (*The Larger Catechism, Q.90*)

What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?

**At the day of judgment, the righteous, being caught up to
Christ in the clouds, shall be set on his right hand, and, there
openly acknowledged and acquitted, shall join with him in
the judging of reprobate angels and men; and shall be received
into heaven, where they shall be fully and forever freed from
all sin and misery; filled with inconceivable joy; made
perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the
company of innumerable saints and angels, but especially in
the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our
Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. And
this is the perfect and full communion, which the members of
the invisible Church shall enjoy with Christ in glory, at the
resurrection and day of judgment.**

*Hymn # 59

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

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 Insert *"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"*
 *Benediction
 *Choral Response
 *Postlude

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

REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS:

Sunday		<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Officer Training
	2:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Daisy Troop Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 p.m.	Cantata Rehearsal
Thursday	9:00-3:00 p.m.	WIC meets in Fellowship Hall
	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Friday	5:00-8:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Cantata Rehearsal
Sunday		<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata



3RD 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 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Deb Lint; Acolyte, Brady Doak; Advent Readers, the Artman family; Ushers, Kristi & Hannah Eckenroad, Pat Swope and Alan Lowman; Projector, John Clark Bruner; Audio, Olivia Eckenroad; Organist, Marilyn Neal; and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

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

OFFICER TRAINING is scheduled for today immediately following worship. Oncoming elders and deacons are asked to stay for lunch and a time of conversation.

THE SESSION will meet Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. New elders to the session starting in January are invited to attend the meeting. Packets for the meeting are available to pick up in the parlor.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 18th. We are still in need of two ringers to complete our choir. If you are interested in ringing, please see Vicky Westley.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New and familiar voices are always welcomed! Please see Cindy Borbonus for more information.

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA is entitled, "Everlasting Light—The Promise of Christmas" by Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Jay Rouse and Larry Shackley. The cantata will be presented in worship next Sunday, December 22nd at 11:00 a.m. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings following Chancel Choir from 8:00-8:30 p.m. A final rehearsal will be held Saturday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to participate is welcome. If you would like more information, please see 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.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday, December 12th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group gathers to work on personal projects and to fellowship. All are welcome.

A VARIETY of Advent Devotionals are available to you. These guides are meant to help you as you move through the season to the coming of the Christ Child. You can pick one up at the back of the sanctuary.

Merry Christmas to Pastor Tim, Bobbi and my church family! I appreciate all of you and for your care, concern and prayers for me. Thank you!

Joann Ferraro

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. Our choirs will take part in the traditional service. We hope you will join us as we welcome the Christ Child.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for the New Year are available for you to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. If you do not have church offering envelopes and would like a box set, please drop a note in the offering plate or contact the church office at 724-459-7991.

THE 2020 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. We hope that those ordering flowers through the deacons (signing up on the chart in the hallway) would take the arrangement following worship or pick them up at the church by the following Tuesday. Flowers that remain at the church after Tuesday will be shared with homebound members of the congregation. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS and treasurers are reminded that reports are requested for the annual Congregational Meeting which will be held Sunday, January 26, 2020 following worship. Please have reports to the church office by Sunday, January 19th. 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 GRANNIES sewing group has several handmade items available for your purchase. Funds raised through the sale of these items help to support our mission of providing a blanket to each person baptized in our church, quilts distributed to fire victims and Habitat for Humanity, stuffed bunnies, bears and ducks given to the Alice Paul House and Citizen's Ambulance Service, dignity robes to the Indiana Hospital Women's Imaging Center, lap robes for those in our church, hats to be given with the Coat Drive, and dining scarves for residents of St. Andrew's Village. These are just some of the distribution points of our sewing projects. As you consider your needs for the upcoming holiday gift-giving season, look to fill your stockings or gift bags with some of our handmade items. Your generosity will help to support the sewing projects within our church and the community. A display is located in the parlor. Please contact Janeen Swope or another grannie with any questions.

Schedule for December

December 21 Cantata Rehearsal 10:00 a.m.
December 22 Christmas Cantata
December 24 Candlelight & Communion Worship
7:00 & 11:00 p.m.
December 25 Merry Christmas!