

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 13, 2020 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Rev. Timothy Monroe

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

arr. by Wyrzten

Call to Worship (*Psalm 126*)

Lon Ferguson, Liturgist

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 # 153 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*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
Brent and Tammy Ritchie

***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

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Anthem	"Every Valley" by Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director	
Gospel Lesson	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Sermon	Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith *(Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn # 176 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

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

*Hymn # 185 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Lon Ferguson; Advent Readers, Brent and Tammy Ritchie; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Marilyn Neal; Audio/Visual Equipment Techs, Jonathan & Doug Clayton and Dennis Gould.

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

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 Mary Hileman, Vicky Doty and the deacons for their work in arranging to have the flowers for the Christmas celebration!

GRANNIES will meet Monday, December 14th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There are tasks for all skill levels. All are welcome.

THE SESSION will meet Tuesday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Session packets are available to pick up in the parlor. Please follow CDC guidelines as we gather.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will meet December 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Those attending are asked to follow the governmental guidelines in place for indoor gatherings. Pastor Monroe will be using the sound system so as to be heard clearly. For those who would like to participate from home, we are set up to offer Bible Study via Zoom. If you are interested, please call the church office for more details.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR is rehearsing special music for Christmas. Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. As with the Sunday anthems, the special music will be recorded and shared in worship Sunday, December 20th. If you are interested in joining the choir for the holiday season or if you have questions, please contact Cindy Borbonus.

THE STITCHING GROUP will gather in the parlor Thursday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to work on personal projects and fellowship. All are invited.

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.

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 or if you would like to have your box mailed to you, please contact the church office at 724-459-7991.

THE 2021 FLOWER CHART has been posted 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 or call the office. Flowers are \$20/Sunday and checks can be made payable to the Board of Deacons. We hope that those ordering flowers through the deacons would take the arrangement following worship or pick them up at the church by the following Tuesday.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to be trained to run the new streaming equipment. If you are interested or available to help out, please see Dennis Gould or contact the church office at 724-459-7991.

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.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS at the Cherry Tree Ball Field are scheduled every Saturday throughout the year from 10:00 a.m. until supplies last. This drive through distribution provides a 40-pound box of USDA approved food consisting of: milk, eggs, cheese, fruit, vegetables and meat. Volunteers are welcome. The distribution is sponsored by: Blessings of Hope, Downs Family Ministry and Cherry Tree Borough.

Christmas EVE

Worship services are scheduled for

7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

We will celebrate with Candlelight and
the Sacrament of Communion.

The 7:00 service will be live streamed
for those joining us from home.

We will continue to follow CDC guidelines
during our gatherings. All are welcome.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Today	9:45 a.m.	Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class
	11:00 a.m.	In-House and Online Worship <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Ministerium Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
	5:30 p.m.	Daisies meet in Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir & Friends Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Friday	5:00 p.m.	Daisy Troop Christmas Meeting
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class
	11:00 a.m.	In-House and Online Worship <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>

153 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

F C F $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F C Dm C $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Dm C F

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

F C F $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F C Dm C $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Dm C F

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Am Dm Gm7 C7 Dm7 $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{E}$ Dm $\frac{F}{A}$ G \sharp Gm Bbmaj7 Csus C

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

$\frac{E}{A}$ F6 $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{E}$ Bm7(b5) $\frac{C7}{D}$ Bb $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F7}{A}$ Bb $\frac{F}{A}$ Bb $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates (Truro)

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates:
Behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart:
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to you: here, Lord, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel:
Your grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won.

Catherine Winkworth | Georg Weissel | T. Williams

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185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

F $\frac{F}{C}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ Am B \flat 2 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King:
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

F $\frac{F}{C}$ C Dm $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{G9}{B}$ $\frac{G7}{B}$ Am $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ Fmaj7 G7 C

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

N.C. $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C N.C. $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

B \flat B \flat maj9 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ D7 Gm $\frac{C}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

B \flat B \flat maj9 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ D Gm $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C}{B\flat}$ $\frac{E}{A}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C7 F

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."