



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 12, 2021 ~ 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

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Arr. John Innes

Organ & Piano Duet

Introit

"Surely It Is God Who Saves Me"

Make God's deeds known to the peoples;

Tell out his exalted Name.

Praise the Lord, who has done great things;

All his works God's might proclaim.

Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,

In your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.

Call to Worship (*Isaiah 12*)

Lon Ferguson, Liturgist

Leader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust,
and will not be afraid,

**People: For the Lord God is my strength and my might;
He has become my salvation.**

Leader: With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

And you will say on that day:

**People: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

**People: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

*Hymn # 59

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*Prayer of Confession

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

*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

Karen Kerin, Sheila Borbonus & Ewan Borbonus

***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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Anthem

“They Shall Go Out Weeping”

By William Gaither

Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

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 # 423

"Surely It Is God Who Saves Me"

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

Choral Amen

*Hymn # 191

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

*Benediction

*Choral Response *"Tidings of Joy"*

*Postlude

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

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Lon Ferguson; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Guest Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Jim & Chris Antis; Audio/Visual, Brylea Borbonus; Streaming, Eli Borbonus.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of Matt and Floda Antis by Jim and Chris Antis.

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. They are available for you to pick up at the back of the sanctuary.

GRANNIES will meet in Fellowship Hall Monday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. There are tasks for everyone. All are welcome.

THE BLAIRSVILLE AREA MINISTERIUM will meet Monday at 11:00 a.m. at SS Simon & Jude Church.

THE SESSION will gather for a meeting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Packets for the meeting are in the parlor for elders to pick up.

WE WILL GATHER for Bible Study in Fellowship Hall and on ZOOM Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Our focus is on the gospel of John. As we gather, we will follow CDC guidelines. Please call the church office with any questions or concerns.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR will rehearse Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. We welcome any seasoned ringers and any new to handbell ringing. Contact Vicky Westley, director for more information.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR and friends are rehearsing special music for the season of Christmas. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to be a part of the choir. Rehearsals are held each Wednesday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and this week, Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet in the parlor Thursday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This group works on personal projects and enjoys fellowship. All are welcome.

USHERS are being scheduled for the remaining Sundays of this year. If you are willing to greet those coming in for worship and distribute bulletins, please consider signing up for a Sunday. A schedule of dates is available at the back of the sanctuary.

THE 7TH ANNUAL COATS-FOR-KIDS DRIVE is being held. We are receiving monetary donations for the purchase of specific size coats for kids in need. Please mark your donation clearly for "Coat Drive" and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. If you know of a family with children who may need a winter coat, please contact Janet Smith.

THE GRANNY'S have been busy making lots of items for their annual Christmas display. All of the homemade items are available to purchase for your gift giving needs. Please contact Janeen Swope or Charlotte Cosharek for more information.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for the New Year are available for you to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. Please look for your name as some envelope numbers have changed. If you do not have church offering envelopes and would like a box set, please contact the church office.

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, 724-459-7991.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS are asked to begin thinking about year-end reports for the Annual Ecclesiastical/Corporate Meeting. Reports are due to the church office by Sunday, January 23rd.

END OF THE YEAR financial statements will be mailed early to mid-January. If you would like your statement earlier, contact the office.

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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Ministerium Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	11:00 a.m.	Food Bank Distribution
	6:00 p.m.	Roll Review Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Christmas Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Friday	4:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship & Christmas Choir
	2:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, Joining all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music lifts us sunward In the triumph song of life.

“Surely It Is God Who Saves Me”

Surely it is God who saves me;
I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me
and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water
from salvation's living spring;
In the day of your deliverance
thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

Make God's deeds known to the peoples;
tell out his exalted Name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things;
all his works God's might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing;
for with you has come to dwell,
in your very midst,
the great and Holy One of Israel.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

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“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears | Richard Storrs Willis

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