



## *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

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Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 5, 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

Introit

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

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.

Call to Worship (*Luke 1*)

Mary Gorslone, Liturgist

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

**People: That we, being rescued  
from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.**

Leader: By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**People: To give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

\*Hymn # 158

*"Blessed Be the God of Israel"*

\*Prayer of Confession

**Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.**

\*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  
Becky Bence and Mary Gorslone

***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

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

Old Testament Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

Anthem

*"Every Valley"*

By Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

Rev. Timothy 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

\*Hymn # 191 *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response *"Tidings of Joy"*

\*Postlude

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

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THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Mary Gorslone; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Guest Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Barri Stuchal and Alan Lowman; Audio/Visual, Austin and Andrew Baker; Streaming, Chase Stuchal.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of our parents by Pat and Janeen Swope.

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.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the parlor to review the 2022 budget. If you are a committee chair and have any items to consider for next year's spending, please contact the church office.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is the final meeting of 2021.

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. If you have any questions or would like more information, please see Cindy Borbonus.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 4 will hold their annual Soup & Chili Cookoff today immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. This is a fundraising event for the troop.

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 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 see the insert for more information or contact Janeen Swope or Charlotte Cosharek.

THE 7<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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.

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>
	9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes
	11:00 a.m. Worship
	12:00 p.m. Boy Scout Chili/Soup Cookoff in Fellowship Hall
Monday	6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Board of Deacons Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall reserved
	7:00-9:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m. Stitching Group
	6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Leader Meeting
Sunday	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>
	9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes
	11:00 a.m. Worship

THE MINISTERIUM will sponsor another Community Lenten Devotional in 2022. Volunteers are needed to write devotional thoughts for the days below. There are several scriptures to choose from each day through Lent. Those who volunteer to submit a devotion will list the scripture lesson, a devotional message of about 400 words, and a one or two sentence prayer. You can sign your name, or remain anonymous. All submissions will be gathered by February 13<sup>th</sup> and will be compiled into booklet form, duplicated, then distributed to area churches for use during the Lenten Season (which begins Ash Wednesday, March 2). Our congregation has been assigned 6 days. There are several texts per day. Please read through them and choose one for your focus:

**MARCH 21-reserved**

**MARCH 22**

Psalms 34; 146; 25; 91; Genesis 45:1-15;  
I Corinthians 7:32-40; Mark 6:1-13

**MARCH 23**

Psalms 5; 147:1-11; 27; 51; Genesis 45:16-28;  
I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 6:13-29

**MARCH 24**

Psalms 27; 147:12-20; 126; 102; Genesis 46:1-7, 28-34;  
I Corinthians 9:1-15; Mark 6:30-46

**MARCH 25-reserved**

**MARCH 26**

Psalms 43; 149; 31; 143; Genesis 47:27-48:7;  
I Corinthians 10:1-13; Mark 7:1-23

If you feel led to share with your brothers and sisters in Blairsville, please let Pastor Monroe know of your willingness as soon as possible.

# **“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 His promise  
To bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David  
A child of grace has come,  
A Savior who will lead us  
To our eternal home.  
Before Him goes the herald,  
Forerunner in the way,  
The prophet of salvation,  
The harbinger of day.

On all by death imprisoned  
The sun begins to rise,  
The dawning of forgiveness  
Upon the sinner's eyes,  
To guide the feet of pilgrims  
Along the paths of peace;  
O bless our God and Savior  
With songs that never cease!

Hal H. Hopson | Michael Perry

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# **“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh:  
Awake and listen for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of Kings.

Let every heart be cleansed from sin,  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And so prepare to be the home  
Where such a mighty guest may come.

For You are our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Your grace we waste away  
Like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick, stretch out Your hand,  
And make the fallen sinner stand;  
Shine out, and let Your light restore  
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

To you, O Christ, all praises be,  
Whose advent sets your people free;  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore!

Charles Coffin | John Chandler  
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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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