



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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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 11, 2022 ~ 11:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

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

“The Birthday of a King”

By Neidlinger

Introit

“Search Me, O God”

385

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;

Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.

See if there be some wicked way in me;

Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

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Call to Worship (*Psalms 146*)

Dennis Gould, Liturgist

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
Jean Heberling and Elaine Jellison

*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 35:1-10

Anthem

"They Shall Go Out Weeping"

By Gaither

The Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

New Testament Lesson

James 5:7-10

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 (“...debts...and debtors...”)

Choral Amen

*Hymn Insert

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

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

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 copy of our newsletter, *Uplift* 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, Dennis Gould; Advent Readers, Jean Heberling and Elaine Jellison; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Guest Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Gene and Chery Artman.

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.

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet with the elders today at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

GRANNIES sewing group will meet Monday in Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. There are tasks for all skill levels. All are welcome.

THE ICCAP FOOD BANK will distribute groceries from Fellowship Hall Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Those signing up for the first time should provide proof of residency in the Blairsville borough.

BIBLE STUDY will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday in Fellowship Hall and on ZOOM. We continue through the gospel of John followed by a study in Revelation. We hope you will join us.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR will gather for rehearsal Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room. Anyone interested in joining with the Bell Choir is welcome. Training will be offered to those who are new to ringing. Please see Vicky Westley for more information.

OUR DEACONS will be assembling Christmas Boxes for families in need in our community. Each box will include menu items to prepare a Christmas dinner. Hams and potatoes will be provided by the deacons. Donations are being received and include: canned vegetables (no corn or green beans), canned fruit, Jello, boxed dessert mixes and canned sweet potatoes. If you are donating from your cupboard, please check expiration dates. A container is available at the back of the sanctuary to collect donations.

CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal will be held Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New voices are always welcome! If you enjoy making a joyful noise, we would love for you to join us. Please see Cindy Borbonus if you would like more information.

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA is entitled, "Jesus, the Advent of the Messiah" by Mary McDonald. The cantata will be presented in worship Sunday, December 18th at 11:00 a.m. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings following Chancel Choir from 7:30—9:00 p.m. A final rehearsal will be held Saturday, December 17th at 10:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to participate is welcome. If you would like more information, please see Cindy Borbonus.

ON SUNDAY, December 18th, several adults and young people will unite with the congregation. A confirmation class will be concluding today as the confirmands meet with the elders after worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of the church, please speak with Pastor Monroe.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available for you at the back of the sanctuary. These guides are meant to help you as you move through the season to the coming of the Christ Child.

KEEPSAKE ORNAMENTS of the church from Wendall August Forge are available to purchase at a cost of \$12.00 each. Checks can be made payable to the church. Please see Linda George or contact the church office.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the bakers and helpers who made this year's Cookie Walk a success. All proceeds will benefit the Share the Joy Foundation sponsored by the Blairsville Community Center.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to run the audio/visual equipment in the balcony each Sunday morning. Those interested will be trained. Please see Jean Heberling or Doug Clayton if interested.

AN USHER SIGN-UP SHEET is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to participate in worship as an usher/greeter, please sign-up. There are dates available. Our deacons thank you.

THE 2023 FLOWER CHART is located on the bulletin board in the hallway by the church office. You may sign-up for your choice of dates. Gary's Floral provides our arrangements. After worship, you may take your flowers home or we ask that you pick up by the following Tuesday. Those remaining after Tuesday will be delivered to one of our home bound members. Dedications to be printed in the bulletin can be submitted to the church office or noted on the sign-up chart. Flower arrangements are \$20 each and checks can be made payable to the "Board of Deacons."

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS FOR THE WEEK INCLUDE:

Friends of our church who are unable to be with us this morning

Our pastor and church leaders

Our Rwanda Partner – the Gitarama Presbyterian Church

Compassion child: Samuel Mutabazi

Our country and government leaders

Students of the Week:

Austin Baker and John Clark Bruner

December Leaders:

Elders: Lisa Hainaut and Bruce Highberger

Deacons: Jamie McKinney and Vicky Westley

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 18th

11:00 a.m. - Christmas Cantata

December 24th

7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Worship

11:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Worship

December 25th

11:00 a.m. - Christmas Day Worship Service

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Today	10:00 a.m.	New Members Orientation
	11:00 a.m.	Third Sunday of Advent Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Elders meet with Confirmation Class
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	10:30 a.m.	Food Bank Distribution
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study meets
	5:00 p.m.	Daisy Troop Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	7:30-9:00 p.m.	Christmas Music Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent
		Christmas Cantata
		Baptism & New Members
	12:00 p.m.	Reception in Fellowship Hall
	3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved