



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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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 4, 2022 ~ 11:00 AM

Second 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 First Noel”

By Smith/Husdad

Introit

“Jesus Shall Reign”

341

Jesus shall reign where e'er

The sun does its successive journeys run;

His kingdom spread from shore to shore,

Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

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Call to Worship (*Psalm 72*)

Mary Gorslone, Liturgist

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**People: May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**People: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**People: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**

Blessed be his glorious name forever;

may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

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

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another; we neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us; deliver us; prepare the way for us, so that we may be ready to enter into your presence, 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

Lindsay Sharp and Zach Barto

***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

Isaiah 11:1-10

Anthem

"Where Our Lord May Go"

By Heins

The Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

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

*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, Mary Gorslene; Advent Readers, Lindsay Sharp and Zach Barto; 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 my mother and our fathers by Patrick and Janeen Swope.

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet today at 5:00 p.m. at the Homer City Presbyterian Church. Please see the schedule of dates and times below.

Sixth Gathering today – 5:00-7:00 p.m.

At the Homer City Presbyterian Church

Meet with the Elders December 11 – 12:00 p.m.

Unite with the Congregation December 18 – 11:00 a.m.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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.

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.

A VARIETY of 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.

ON SUNDAY, December 18th, several adults and young people will unite with the congregation. New member orientations are being held before worship at 10:00 a.m. Sundays, December 4 and 11. A confirmation class will be concluding on Sunday, December 11th 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 or contact the church office, 724-459-7991.

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.

THE 8TH 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.

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.

THANK YOU to all who helped make our Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner a success again this year. Those who stepped up to help the committee, those who prepared food, set up and cleaned up, those who contributed monetarily, the worship speakers and especially all the kitchen help, it was much appreciated. Thank you to all who stayed and enjoyed the meal and fellowship. We are so thankful for our church family!

THE DEACONS are planning a CPR training class. They would like to know how many would be interested in attending before final plans are set. If you are interested in being a part of a CPR training, please contact Judy Trimble or the church office. Once we get an idea of class size, dates and times will be announced.

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.

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:

Avary Baltazar and Brennan Borbonus

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

THE MINISTERIUM will sponsor another Community Lenten Devotional in 2023. Volunteers are needed to write devotional thoughts for the days below. Those who volunteer to submit a devotion will list the chosen 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 and will be compiled into booklet form, duplicated, then distributed to area churches for use during the Lenten Season (*which begins Ash Wednesday, February 22*). Our congregation has been assigned 6 days. 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. Please read through the scriptures and choose one for your focus:

MARCH 20

Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20

MARCH 21

Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14

MARCH 22

Psalms 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34

MARCH 23

Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11

MARCH 24

Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19

MARCH 25

Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Today	10:00 a.m.	New Members Orientation
	11:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent Worship
	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class meets at Homer City Presbyterian Church
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study meets
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	7:30-9:00 p.m.	Christmas Music Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
Sunday	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