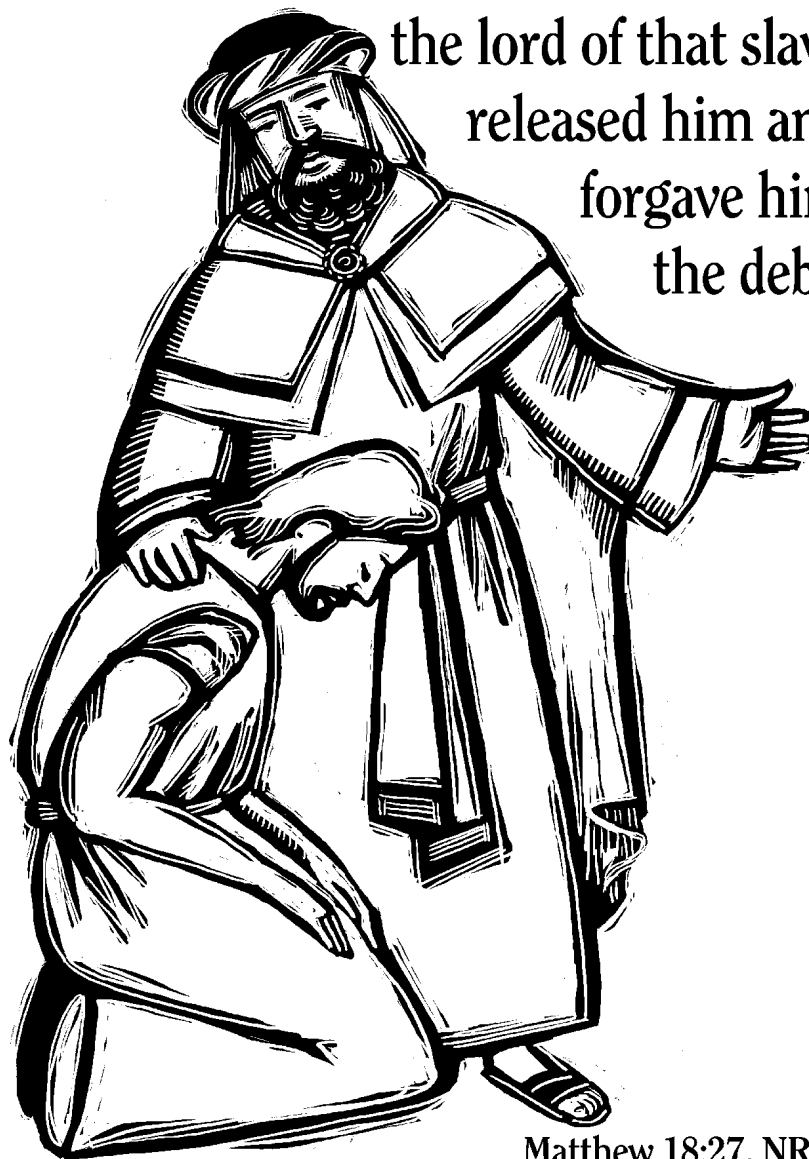


And out of pity for him,
the lord of that slave
released him and
forgave him
the debt.



Matthew 18:27, NRSV

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

137 N. Walnut Street ~ Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

Church office 724-459-7991

e-mail: upchurch@r-church.com; website: www.r-church.com

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

September 17, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m.

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 Organ and Piano Duet

Introit “As the Deer” # 471

**As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul longs after You;
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.
You alone are my strength my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship You.**

Martin Nystrom; © 1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

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Call to Worship (*Psalm 103*) Terry Brown, Liturgist

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits –**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**People: Who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

Leader: Who satisfies you with good as long as you live

People: So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

*Hymn # 67 “Come, We That Love the Lord”

*Prayer of Confession

God our redeemer, we confess that we remain captivated by sin. You move heaven and earth to save us, but we are unmoved by the suffering of others. You are willing to forgive again and again, but we are unwilling to forgive the debts of others. Forgive us; liberate us! Let us be no longer bound by sin, but released, restored, set free to worship and serve you in freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Anthem

“I’m So Glad”

Arr. Helgen

Chancel Choir – Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

(The Larger Catechism)

What do we pray for in the fifth petition of the Lord’s Prayer?

In the fifth petition (which is, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”), acknowledging that we and all others are guilty both of original and actual sin, and thereby become debtors to the justice of God, and neither we nor any other creature can make the least satisfaction for that debt: we pray for ourselves and others, that God of his free grace would, through the obedience and satisfaction of Christ apprehended and applied by faith, acquit us both from the guilt and punishment of sin, accept us in his Beloved, continue his favor and grace to us, pardon our daily failings, and fill us with peace and joy, in giving us daily more and more assurance of forgiveness; which we are the rather emboldened to ask, and encouraged to expect, when we have this testimony in ourselves, that we from the heart forgive others their offenses.

*Hymn # 371 “Our Father, We Have Wandered”
Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer (*debt...and debtors...*)
Choral Amen
Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word
Offertory
*Doxology
*Prayer of Dedication
*Hymn # 372 “I Then Shall Live”
*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, Terry Brown; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Usher, Alan Lowman; and Property Manager, Patrick Swope.

THE MONDAY MUSIC CLUB will present a Disney Celebration Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10 per person and proceeds will benefit their scholarship fund. If you are interested in attending, please see Cindy Borbonus or another club member as seating is limited.

A SESSION MEETING will be held Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Elders can pick up their meeting packets in the parlor.

BELL CHOIR rehearsal will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. We need 1 or 2 more ringers to complete our 2-octave choir and 3 or 4 more ringers to be able to play our 3-octave music. If you have ever thought of giving handbells a try, please contact Vicky Westley. We can plan a time to meet so you can “test it out” before committing to ringing with the Bell Choir.

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal will be held Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to have new voices join us in song! If you are interested in singing with the choir, please see Cindy Borbonus. All are welcome!

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group works on personal projects and enjoys fellowship. You are invited to bring a project you’re working on and join the group.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held immediately following worship Sunday, September 24th to accept the report of the Nominating Committee and the 2024 Pastoral Terms of Call.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Congregational Fellowship Committee is planning a Soup & Sandwich Luncheon for Sunday, October 15th following worship. We will gather around tables in Fellowship Hall for a time of refreshment and fellowship. Lunch will be provided by the committee. Those attending are asked to bring a dessert. The day will also include “Men with Mixers” with proceeds supporting our Coats for Kids outreach. The men who would like to participate are asked to use the sign-up sheet located at the back of the sanctuary. Contact Joan Moran or Linda George for more information.

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 Linda George or the church office.

THE 9TH ANNUAL COATS-FOR-KIDS DRIVE has begun. 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 WORK of the Nominating Committee is some of the most important in the life of the church. Those serving have the responsibility to bring before the congregation the names of those who will potentially serve as elders and deacons. Please be in prayer for them as they discern God's will for our church's leadership. Also be in prayer for those individuals who will be asked to serve.

The Nominating Committee includes:

Kim McKinney-chair, Gene Artman-elder, Chris Antis-deacon, Elaine Jellison, Barb Brown, Lynette Borbonus, Linda George and Pastor Monroe. Willa Shoemaker and Diana Messenger are the alternates.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE will soon begin to review information for the 2024 church budget. Committee chairs are asked to begin planning for next year and consider your financial needs. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the church office.

BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in Indiana will serve a Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, September 23rd from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The meal includes spaghetti, meatball, dinner roll, salad, dessert and beverage. Costs are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12 and children 4 years and under are free. Takeouts will be available. Proceeds will support their kitchen renovation project.

THE ANGELS' WINGS PROGRAM provides gifts at Christmas time to individuals and families who reside in Indiana County and to veterans as a thank you for their service to our country. The program is sponsored by Diamond Drugs, Inc. in cooperation with ICCAP.

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	3:00 p.m.	Monday Music Club Setup and Dress Rehearsal
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Monday Music Club Disney Program in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Worship