



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

*Third Sunday of Advent*

**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

Words of Greeting

Jean Heberling, Liturgist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

Prelude

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Organ and Piano Duet

Introit

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#153

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.**

Call to Worship

Leader: With joy this day we anticipate  
the one who is coming, the arrival of the Messiah.

**People: The one we call the Word!**

**The one we call the Light.**

Leader: Like John the Baptist, we are not the light.  
In our worship, we testify to the light.

**People: Our testimony is prayer and praise,  
song and scripture.**

Leader: Our testimony is preaching and teaching,  
learning and serving.

**People: May our testimony be a sweet sound in your ear,  
O God.**

\*Prayer of Confession

**Mighty and powerful God, your word says, "Rejoice always." But we would rather sulk about the things that don't go right. Your word says, "Pray without ceasing." But we go for days without even thinking about You. Your word says, "Give thanks in all circumstances." But our thankfulness is fleeting, because we think we deserve blessings. Your word says "Hold fast to what is good," while we hold fast to sinful ways of thinking and acting. Forgive us; deliver us; let your face shine on us, so that we may be ready to meet our Emmanuel, 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

Adam, Dana and Brady Doak

***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

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

**"O HOLY LIGHT"**

By Mary McDonald

"Rejoice Your Light Has Come"

"O, Come, Emmanuel"

“Worship Christ, The Newborn King”

“O, Come, Little Children”

“The Christmas Gift”

“In a Manger”

“O Holy Light”

“May the Light of Christ”

“Come and Adore Him”

*(Congregation joins)*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!**

**Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!**

**O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;**

**O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Good Christian all rejoice – with heart and soul and voice.**

**Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!**

**Man and beast before Him bow,**

**and He is in the manger now.**

**Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

**Angels we have heard on high,**

**sweetly singing o’er the plains;**

**and the mountains in reply echo back their joyful strains.**

**Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo**

**Glo-----ria in excelsis De -o!**

“Rejoice Your Light Has Come”

Reprise

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

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

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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, Jean Heberling; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Alan Lowman and Mya Johnson; and Property Manager, Dennis Gould.

THE BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS in the sanctuary this morning are given in memory and in honor of loved ones by many in the congregation. A special thank you to Chris Antis and the deacons for their work in arranging to have the flowers for the Christmas celebration!

OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA, entitled "O Holy Light" by Mary McDonald will be presented today during worship. We invite you to sit back and enjoy the sounds of the season. We thank Cindy Borbonus, the choir, narrators and all others involved for sharing their time and talents with us today!

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE is offering coffee and cookies before worship each Sunday during Advent. We hope you will join us at 10:15 a.m. as we gather in Fellowship Hall and enjoy some cookies, coffee or tea and fellowship before worship. All are welcome!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available for you at the back of the sanctuary. This year's devotional is entitled, "The Light of Grace, Welcoming God's Amazing Gift of Christ" by Michael Hoy. These guides are meant to help you as you move through the season to the coming of the Christ Child. Please help yourself.

THE SESSION will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. New elders are welcome to attend the meeting. Packets for the meeting are available to pick up in the parlor.

BELL CHOIR rehearsal will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. We are in need of ringers to complete our choir. If you have ever thought of giving handbells a try, please contact Vicky Westley.

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR will be in recess and will resume rehearsals Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. If you enjoy singing and are interested in being part of the choir, please see Cindy Borbonus.

THE GRANNIES are accepting silent auction bids for the full size, hand appliqued Dresden Plate pattern quilt at the back of the sanctuary. A recommended starting bid is \$200. Proceeds from the auction will benefit their ministry.

CUSTOM 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 for an ornament or 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. All requests are kept confidential.

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 we have condensed the number of boxes and your box number may have changed. If you do not have church offering envelopes and would like a box set, please drop a note in the offering plate or contact the church office at 724-459-7991.

## *THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR*

### Sopranos

*Kathy Bella*

*Pam Irwin*

*Janet Smith*

### Altos

*Mary Anzelone*

*Brylea Borbonus*

*Peggy Citeroni*

*Vicky Westley*

### Tenors

*Bob Klingensmith*

### Basses

*Mark Borbonus*

### Children

*Bram Borbonus*

*Emry Borbonus*

### Narrators

*Sheila Borbonus*

*Dennis Gould*

### Director

*Cindy Borbonus*

### Audio/Visual

*Doug Clayton*

THE MINISTERIUM has decided to continue the tradition of publishing a Community Lenten Devotional in 2024. Those who volunteer will list the biblical reference from one of the listed lectionary texts, share a devotion of about 450 words, followed by a two-sentence prayer. Giving your name is optional but appreciated. All submissions will be gathered and compiled into booklet form, duplicated, then distributed to area churches for use during the Lenten Season. Our congregation has been assigned 3 days. If you feel led to share with your brothers and sisters in Blairsville, please contact the church office and let us know of your willingness and which day you choose. Send devotions to the church office email, [upchurch@r-church.com](mailto:upchurch@r-church.com) or drop off a hard copy by Sunday, January 21st. Lent begins Wednesday, February 14 and Easter is March 31.

**Thursday, March 7**—Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9; Jeremiah 7:23-28;  
Luke 11:14-23

**Friday, March 8**—Psalm 81:6-11, 14, 17; Hosea 14:2-10;  
Mark 12:28-34

**Saturday, March 9**—Psalm 51:3-4, 18-21; Hosea 6:1-6;  
Luke 18:9-14

## **REGULAR SCHEDULE:**

<b>Sunday</b>	10:15 a.m.	Cookies and Coffee in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen reserved
<b>Monday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
<b>Friday</b>	6:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday</b>	10:15 a.m.	Cookies and Coffee in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Clark Bruner and Communion with Gene Artman
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship