



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. John Manon

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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 15, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Dianna Messenger, Liturgist

Leader: May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

People: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Sheila Borbonus and Sons

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Arr. Innes

Introit # 442 "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"
**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take him at his word,
just to rest upon his promise, just to know,
"Thus saith the Lord."
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!**

Call to Worship

Leader: All creation holds its breath.

People: The time is almost here.

Leader: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

People: Joy and anticipation are all around us.

Leader: Prepare your hearts – the grace of God
takes on human form.

**People: We gather to make ready our hearts
for the coming of our true hope.**

*Hymn # 96 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we praise you for sending your Son, the Light of Heaven, into this world. We confess that we have not always been a good reflection of that Light. We have sinned against you and your word in countless ways. Forgive us, we pray. Restore us to wholeness so your Light might shine brightly through us as we go about our lives in this darkened world. AMEN.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

Young Disciples

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 40:34-38

Anthem

“Waiting”

Arr. Schram

The Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Young Disciples, Rhythm Instruments

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:8-15

Sermon

“Angelic Appearances” (Part 3)

Rev. John Manon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

“We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the power of the Holy Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to love and to serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life eternal, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.”

*Hymn # 185

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer (*debt...and debtors...*)

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Presentation of the Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 66 "To God Be the Glory"

*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, Dianna Messenger; Advent Readers, Sheila Borbonus and Sons; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Lewis; Audio/Visual, Brylea Borbonus and John Bruner; Ushers, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; 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!

THE ELDERS will gather for a Session meeting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Packets for the meeting are available to pick up in the parlor.

BIBLE STUDY will meet Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to join one of the studies online, please call the church office for more information.

OUR CHOIRS will rehearse this Wednesday. The Bell Choir will rehearse at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room and the Chancel Choir will rehearse at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to have you join our choirs. For more information, see Vicky Westley, director of the Bells or Cindy Borbonus, director of the choir.

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.

ACTIVITY BAGS have been prepared for our Young Disciples. Children are invited to pick one up on their way into worship. Each bag will contain a Children's Bulletin for the day, crayons, color pages, and other items. At the end of the service, please return your bag to the back of the sanctuary so it can be prepared for the following week. Thank you to our grannies for sewing the bags for us!

PEOPLE'S CHOICE SERMON SERIES forms are included in your bulletin today. If there is a topic or scripture passage that you would like to hear more about, jot it down and place it in the offering plate. Pastor John is planning to share a message on the topics submitted. He will begin the series Sunday, January 19.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received next Sunday during worship. These gifts provide assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.

BEGINNING in January we will no longer have the refreshments before worship. Instead we will begin Sunday School Classes. Plans are still being made. We will share more information in upcoming bulletins.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

7:00 PM

Candlelight Worship
Advent Wreath Lighting
(no communion)

11:00 PM

Candlelight Worship
Advent Wreath Lighting
Sacrament of Holy Communion

THE PRAYER CHAIN is coordinated by members of 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 at 724-459-7991.

THE GRANNIES have a display setup in the parlor of their homemade items to purchase for your gift giving needs. A list of a variety of items and costs are available at the back of the sanctuary or in the parlor by the display. If you have any questions, please see a granny.

A COMMUNITY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL for 2025 is planned. Submissions are to be 420 words, list the biblical reference from one of the listed lectionary texts or a text of the writer's choice citing the version of the Bible used, followed by the devotional and a two-sentence prayer. Giving your name is optional but appreciated. If you feel led to share a devotion, 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 or drop off a hard copy **by Sunday, February 2nd**. If you have questions, please call the office.

Monday, April 7—Psalm 20; Exodus 40:1-15; Hebrews 10:19-25

Tuesday, April 8—Psalm 20; Judges 9:7-15; 1 John 2:18-28

Wednesday, April 9—Psalm 20; Habakkuk 3:2-15; Luke 18:31-34

THE DEACON'S KIDS CLOSET is available to families in the River Valley School District and Blairsville area. If you know of a family in need, ask them to call the church office to schedule an appointment. Donations for the Kids Closet of sizes from newborn to young adult are always welcomed.

THE 10TH 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". If you know of a family with children who may need a winter coat, please contact Janet Smith.

THE DEACONS are collecting unused greeting cards and luggage for the patients at Torrance State Hospital. Please set any donations at the back of the sanctuary.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like a box or if you no longer need yours, please drop a note in the offering plate or call the church office. You can also email upchurch@r-church.com.

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday		THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	10:15 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
Sunday		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	10:15 a.m.	Refreshments and Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship