

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 22, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

Words of Greeting

Leader: The love of God, the grace of Christ and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lisa Hainaut & Jean Heberling

Prelude

"Birthday of a King"

Arr. Berry/Bennett

Introduction to the Service of Lessons and Carols

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Leader: Sing to the Lord and praise His holy name.

People: We will tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Leader: Declare God's glory and marvelous works among all people.

People: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Leader: Let all creation sing for joy in the presence of God.

People: May God's name be praised forever and ever.

Anthem

"Christmas Is Love"

The Chancel Choir

LESSONS AND CAROLS

ADVENT

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" # 154 (vs. 1, 3)

ANGEL APPEARS TO MARY

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail." ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

"O Holy Night" # 187 (all verses)

ANGEL APPEARS TO JOSEPH

Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had

in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" # 191 (all verses)

Special Music

"Silent Night"

The Nightengals

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" # 185 (all verses)

SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8-15

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" # 218 (all verses)

WISEMEN

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Organ Carol

"O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

Pam Lewis

Special Music

The Nightengals

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Presentation of the Offering

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

"Away in A Manger" # 203

*Benediction

*Postlude

"How Great Is Our God"

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 Advent Readers, Lisa Hainaut and Jean Heberling; Special Music, the Nightengals; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Lewis; Audio/Visual, Brennan Borbonus and Doug Clayton; Ushers, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; and Property Manager, Todd Faulk.

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!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

7:00 PM

Candlelight Worship
Advent Wreath Lighting
Sacrament of Holy Communion

11:00 PM

Candlelight Worship
Advent Wreath Lighting
Sacrament of Holy Communion

OFFICE HOURS this week will be limited. Please call before you stop and leave a message if there is no answer. Someone will return your call.

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.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE SERMON SERIES forms are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. 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 today during worship. These gifts provide assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. Thank you for your gifts.

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—reserved

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

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

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| Sunday | | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Refreshment and Fellowship |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Service of Lessons and Carols |
| Monday | 6:30 p.m. | Boy Scout Meeting |
| Tuesday | 7:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Worship and Communion |
| | 11:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Worship and Communion |
| Wednesday | | Merry Christmas! |
| Sunday | 11:00 a.m. | Worship The Otter Creek Brass |

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ONLINE GIVING