

Celebration of Worship

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

9:30 A.M.

*We are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing
the love of God through faith and action, welcoming all.*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Viktoria Berlik

Announcements

Reflection

Psalm 30:5

*For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*

Ringling of the Bell

Gathering Song *While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

The Burke Family

Pastor: The Advent season invites us to Christmas.
Family: We re-light the first candle of Advent – the Prophet's
Candle.
People: What God does brings hope.
Family: We re-light the second candle of Advent – the Angel's
Candle.
People: What God does brings peace.
Family: Today we light the third candle of Advent – the Bethlehem
Candle.
People: What God does brings joy.
Family: Where do you find joy?
People: In a child, a newborn child, lying in a manger.
All: Christ is Christmas.

Call to Worship

Isaiah 12:2-6

Leader: Surely God is my salvation. I will trust and will not be
afraid,
**People: for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has
become my salvation.**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;

**People: make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim
that his name is exalter.**

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this
be known in all the earth.

**People: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in
your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

All: Let us worship the Lord!

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

9

Invocation

Leader: Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you.
Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save
us so that wars and violence shall end and your children
may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and
love; through Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

**All: In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need
repentance. We have broken your commands against
idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your
people. We have not trusted your word and we are afraid.
Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for
the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for
the sake of the world. Amen.**

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us,
we are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments
against us. Let us not worry, and live in peace.

People: Amen.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings *Zephaniah 3:14-20*
Luke 3:7-18 - John the Baptist

Children's Pageant

Mary, Joseph and the Baby Tammy Waldrop
Silent Night - Bells and Congregation # 60

Hymn *Away in a Manger* # 25

Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn *People, Look East* # 12

Invitation to the Offering

Please place your offering in the plates at the exit doors,
mail your gifts to the church, or click the WPC website "Give" button. Thank you!

Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Blessing of the Offering

**All: Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given to us,
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed the
world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus
Christ. Amen.**

Anthem *The Joy of Christmas* Michael Joy
Alleluia Bells

Benediction

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Memory Verse

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14

Lectionary Passages

	<u>December 15th</u>	<u>December 22nd</u>
Old Testament	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i>	<i>Micah 5:2-5a</i>
Psalm		<i>Psalms 80:1-7</i>
New Testament	<i>Philippians 4:4-7</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:5-10</i>
Gospel	<i>Luke 3:7-18</i>	<i>Luke 1:39-55</i>

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 10:45 A.M. Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
- 11:15 A.M. Adult Ed. - Book Discussion in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 344 in the Social Room
- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 489 in the Memorial Room

Monday, December 16

- 4:00 P.M. Spiritual Nurture Committee on Zoom
- 6:00 P.M. Rachel Circle Christmas Party at the home of Gayl Galen
- 6:45 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social Room

Tuesday, December 17

- 9:00 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 4:30 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 220 in the Memorial Room
- 5:15 P.M. TOPS Meeting in Room 9/10
- 6:30 P.M. Deacons' Meeting in Room 9/10

Wednesday, December 18 - December Pathway Deadline

- 6:30 A.M. Breakfast & Bible Study at Golden Boys' Restaurant
- 5:30 P.M. Nar-Anon Meeting in Room 9/10
- 7:00 P.M. Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room
- 7:30 P.M. ONE in Christ Committee on Zoom

Thursday, December 19

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 8:00 A.M. Heritage Christian Services Event in the Social Room
- 9:00 A.M. Glory Bells' Concert at Chapel Heathwood Facility
- 3:00 P.M. Book Club in Room 1
- 6:00 P.M. Alleluia Bells' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 6:45 P.M. Boy Scout Committee in the Memorial Room

Friday, December 20

- 9:00 A.M. Flying Club in the Social Room
- 10:00 A.M. Heart & Hand in Room 5

Saturday, December 21

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom
- 10:00 A.M. Girl Scout Troops 715 & 195 in the Social Room

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK - 5th Grade in Room 3

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 9:00 A.M. Church office open until Noon
 - 4:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Worship Service
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. WELCOME to Webster Presbyterian Church! We are pleased that you are worshipping with us, whether in person or by live-streaming. You can live-stream at 9:30 or later at your leisure using:
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/> or
YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>
2. A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING has been called by Session for today, December 15, 2024, after the worship service for the purpose of (1) nominating and electing church officers for 2025, (2) approving an amendment to the church by-laws, and (3) if the way be clear, receiving nominations and electing a Pastor Nominating Committee.
3. ADULT Ed. – Today join us in a discussion of chapter 1, “The God Bearer”, from the book *Into the Mess and other Jesus Stories*.
4. POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE is today for plants to be displayed at the 4:00 Christmas Eve service. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office to submit your \$15 order, (checks made out to PWC). When ordering, you may include a dedication in memory or honor of a loved one. Poinsettias may be taken home after the service or donated to a Friends at Home individual.
5. \$10 GIFT CARDS DEADLINE for Christmas for the Men at Grace House is today. Preferred cards are for Walmart, Chick Fil A, Wendy's and McDonalds, which are within walking distance of Grace House. Donations may be placed in the shoebox on the table in the Narthex, or they can be brought or mailed to the church office.
6. CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - During December and early January we are collecting donations for this annual denominational PCUSA offering. 50% of this offering is used for emergency financial assistance for former and current pastors and church workers and their families. The other 50% is used for scholarships and other aid primarily for students of color at Presbyterian-related colleges. Envelopes are in the chair racks for this worthy cause.
7. A BIG THANK you to all who donated to the Angel Tree this year. 225 gifts were dropped off at the Williamson Come-Unity Center this past Tuesday. A special thank you to those that reached out to friends/co-workers outside of our church; this was a big help! Thank you to all of the Angels who participated.

Christmas Eve Service
4:00 p.m.
Communion and Candle lighting