

Celebration of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 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 *Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645* JS Bach

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Reflection *Henri Nouwen*
The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.

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 Fourth Advent Candle The Dolan 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: We re-light the third candle of Advent –
the Bethlehem Candle.

People: What God does brings joy.

Family: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent –
the Shepherd's Candle.

People: What God does is filled with love.

Family: Where do we find love this Christmas?

People: In a child, a newborn child, lying in a manger.

All: Christ is Christmas.

Call to Worship

Leader: Through time and space, in the blink of the eye, the love of God stretched forth in the life of a young girl, asking that she be part of God's great plan of Salvation.

People: Her name was Mary. She was not of wealth or power. She was a person, just like you and me.

Leader: The Good News came first to the lowly.

People: Even today, we believe that good news often comes only to the mighty. How wrong we are!

Leader: In a world where hatred and fear were commonplace, the Christ Child would be born.

People: Fear and hatred are far too commonplace in our world. May the Christ Child come anew into our hearts this day. Amen.

Hymn *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* # 11

Invocation

Leader: Gracious and generous God, you are always with us, offering guidance, healing and hope. We know that when things seem dark or are dazzlingly bright, when troubled times assail or peace reigns, there you are with us. Continue to guide and challenge our lives. Lead us in pathways of service and away from trails of fear and anxiety. Open our hearts to receive your healing transforming love that we might serve you more faithfully. For we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that we are forgiven and that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary's womb is to be named Jesus. "Call him Jesus," the angel says. "For he will save the people from their sins." From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

Children's Time

Hymn *Savior of the Nations, Come* # 14

Scripture Reading *Micah 5:2-5a*

Anthem *Advent Echo Carol* Mary kay Beall

Prophets told it long ago, prepare the way, O Zion.
Like a rose, he'll bloom and grow, prepare the way, O Zion.
He comes! He comes, the powers of earth confounding,
the joy of peace resounding.
Truth and justice in His hand, prepare the way, O Zion.
Son of God and Son of man, prepare the way, O Zion.
He comes! He comes, the powers of earth confounding,
the joy of peace resounding.
The lame will dance, the blind will see. Prepare the way.
Ransomed souls will be set free. Prepare, prepare the way.
Hills and valleys shout and sing. Prepare the way, O Zion.
Tribute of our hearts we bring. Prepare the way, O Zion.
He comes! He comes, the powers of earth confounding,
the joy of peace resounding.

Scripture Reading *Luke 1:39-55*

Sermon Rev. Lynda Meyers

Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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

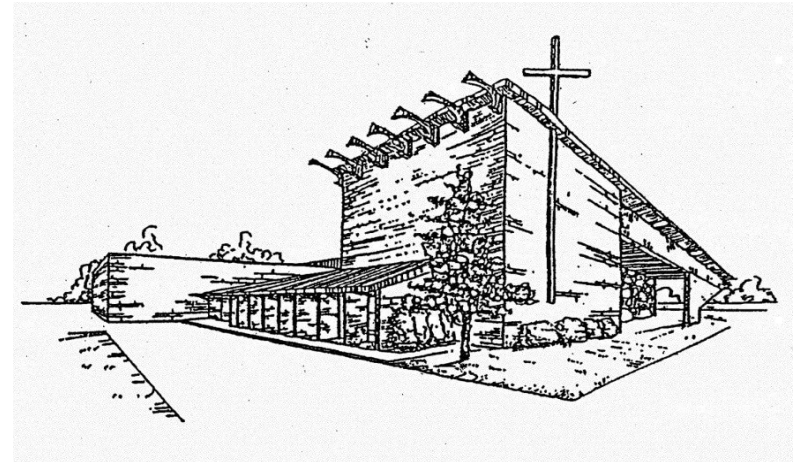
**All: O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them,
even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus
Christ, our coming Lord. Amen.**

Hymn *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* Insert

Benediction and Choral Response

Postlude *Prelude in E Minor BWV 548 (excerpt)* JS Bach

WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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living and sharing the love of God
through faith and action,
welcoming all.*

Webster Presbyterian Church
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585-265-9700 www.websterpres.org
Pastor Nadia Mullin

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. CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - 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.
3. OFFICE HOURS this week are Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon.
4. ANNUAL REPORTS from Committee Chairpersons and Treasurers are due in the church office by Sunday, January 5th. You can submit your information by email to g Hubbard@websterpres.org as a Word or Excel file, or bring a printed copy to the church office.

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

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, December 25 - Have a Blessed Christmas Day !!

Saturday, December 28

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom

Sunday, December 29

- 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

Lectionary Passages

	<u>December 22nd</u>	<u>December 29th</u>
Old Testament	<i>Micah 5:2-5a</i>	<i>1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26</i>
Psalm	<i>Psalms 80:1-7</i>	<i>Psalms 148</i>
New Testament	<i>Hebrews 10:5-10</i>	<i>Colossians 3:12-17</i>
Gospel	<i>Luke 1:39-55</i>	<i>Luke 2:41-52</i>

Poinsettias have been given by:

Brad & Kathy Adams in loving memory of their parents and loved ones;

Michael & Beth Algase in loving memory of Mom & Dad Barie, Charlie Barie, and Mom & Dad Algase;

Bob & Jackie Anderson in memory of loved ones;

Bob & Sandi Blakey in memory of loved ones;

Jerri Breschard in loving memory of husband Paul, sister Patti, and her Mom and Dad;

Elissa Burke for James & Pat Sauer;

Clark & Janet Chippero in loving memory of Thelma Peck;

Jody Clark in memory of her parents, Bob & Joyce Clark, and her grand-nephew, Hunter Dunlop;

Stu & Carol Cooper in loving memory of their parents;

Shirley Crane in thanksgiving for family and friends;

Marge & Terry Crumb in memory of Duane & Judy Crumb;

Don & Nikki George for their parents;

Barbara Hach to the Glory of God;

Scott & Heather Hewlett for all of their loved ones;

Tony & Georgia Hubbard in memory of their parents and Warren Hubbard;

Bill & Nancy Martin & Family for Mary & Bill Martin and Pat & Jim Sauer;

Dick & Tina McNeary in memory of family members;

The Oliver Family for Fran Oliver and Dennis Ritz;

Jay, Beth & Sienna Petrino for Tom, Joseph Sr., Jack, and all those deployed;

Arlene Sahmel in celebration of the birth of Jesus;

Duane & Leonor Woodworth for Ruth & Craig Woodworth;

Sue Wroblewski in memory of loved ones.

