

# Celebration of Worship

January 5, 2025

9:30 A.M.

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

**Prelude** *Harmonies du Soir op 72/1* Karg-Elert

## Words of Welcome and Announcements

**Reflection** *When the song of the angels is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone  
When the kings and princes are home  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost; to heal the broken;  
To feed the hungry; to release the prisoner;  
To rebuild the nations; to bring peace among the  
people;  
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman in *Bread of Tomorrow*, ed. Janet Morley  
(New York: Orbis Books, 1992) p. 52

## Ringing of the Bell

**Gathering Song** *How Lovely, Lord*

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place.  
My soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest,  
And so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

**Call to Worship** *Based on Psalm 148*

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**People: Glory to God in the highest! Praise God, all the angels; praise God, all the heavenly host!**

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

**People: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind – Let them praise the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth;

**People: Young men and women alike, old and young together -- We will praise the Lord!**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

**People: And on earth, peace, good will to all! God is with us. Christ is born. Alleluia!**

**Hymn** *Thy Word* *See Insert*

## Invocation

Leader: Holy God, we come before you in the early hours of a new year, as fresh with possibility as the new baby we come to worship as our Savior. Overwhelm us with hope and gladness today. Open us to a brand-new reality, to the way things might yet be. Transform us into vibrant witnesses as we proclaim your good news that is ancient, yet always and ever new. Amen.

## Prayer of Confession

**All: O Lord God, in the presence of the holy child, you have spoken to us with great tenderness, and we have answered with callousness. We confess that we have understood and still refused your call to deal tenderly with one another, to be peacemakers in the earth, to let justice roll down as waters and slake the thirst for righteousness in your world. Forgive us, we pray, and let a new birth of love happen in our lives now as once it happened in a village stall. We pray in the name of the child who is your Christ and our Lord, Jesus. Amen.**

## Moment of Silent Reflection

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of all who honor him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. Lift up your eyes to see the glory of Almighty God who has come to dwell in us and among us. Let your hearts rejoice in the abundance of God's love for in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven! Alleluia! 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

## Children's Time

**Hymn** *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright* # 474

**Scripture Reading** *Ecclesiastes 3:1-13*

**Anthem** *Follow the Star* Douglas Wagner  
Chancel Choir

A star shines bright in the sky tonight, guiding the Wise Men along.  
They've traveled far, led by the star, searching and singing a song.  
"We'll follow the star no matter how far; it will guide us through the night.  
At last it will lead us to love and joy and the child of peace and light."  
Follow, follow, follow the star. Follow, follow, follow the star.  
The gifts they bring are gifts for a King, myrrh, frankincense and gold.  
They follow the star in search of the child prophets have long foretold.

**Scripture Reading** *Matthew 2:13-23*

**Sermon** *Let's Keep Herod in Christmas*  
Rev. Bruce Boak

**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:** For all we have gathered through our work and labor, we give you thanks, O God. For all that we have claimed at the expense of others, we beg your forgiveness. May the mission of Jesus Christ we seek to support through our offerings fulfill your expectations of us. It is in love that we bring these gifts to honor your majesty. Thank you for the witness of shepherds, for the faithfulness of truth-keepers and seekers of every age, and for the transformation of enemies into friends. Thank you, O God, for all that you accomplish when we are open to your Spirit. Receive our lives as we dedicate these gifts to your service. Amen.

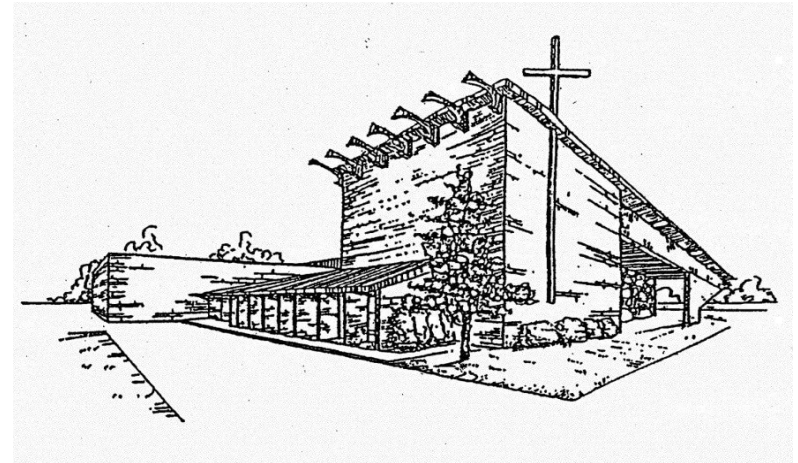
**Hymn** *We Three Kings* # 66

**Benediction**

**Choral Response**

**Postlude** *Fanfare in D* Lemmens

## 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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Webster, NY 14580  
585-265-9700 [www.websterpres.org](http://www.websterpres.org)

## 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. ADULT ED. - Today we will meet in Room 9/10 to continue a study using the book, *Into the Mess*, chapter 1, looking at the lessons Mary taught us when she said yes to an encounter with God.
3. CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - Collections conclude today. Thank you to all who have contributed to this worthy cause.
4. ANNUAL REPORTS from Committee Chairpersons and Treasurers are due in the church office today. You can submit your information by email to [ghubbard@websterpres.org](mailto:ghubbard@websterpres.org) as a Word or Excel file, or bring a paper copy to the church office.
5. OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2025 are located on the table in the hallway outside the Sanctuary for those who have indicated they would like them. If you would like envelopes and do not see a set for you, please speak with Georgia in the church office and they will be provided.
6. WEBSTER HOPE HOUSE is extremely grateful for our congregation's donations that helped serve neighbors in our own community during the holiday season! The needs continue. Please consider donating cooking oil, flour and sugar, pasta and jarred sauce, and canned goods (peas, pineapple, mandarin oranges, beets and potatoes.) The Food Barrel is located in the upper Narthex.

### Lectionary Passages

|               | January 5 <sup>th</sup> | January 12 <sup>th</sup>   |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Old Testament | <i>Jeremiah 31:7-14</i> | <i>Isaiah 43:1-7</i>       |
| Psalm         | <i>Psalms 147:12-20</i> | <i>Psalms 29</i>           |
| New Testament | <i>Ephesians 1:3-14</i> | <i>Acts 8:14-17</i>        |
| Gospel        | <i>John 1:1-18</i>      | <i>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</i> |

### Memory Verse

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation;  
everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!*

*II Corinthians 5:17*

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, January 5 - Annual Reports Due

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in Room 3
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. Book – *Into this Mess*, chapter 1 in Rm 9/10  
“Undecorate” the Church

### Monday, January 6

- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 752 in the Memorial Room
- 6:30 P.M. Session and Officers Elect in Room 9/10
- 6:45 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social Room

### Tuesday, January 7

- 9:00 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10
- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 90 in the Social Room

### Wednesday, January 8

- 6:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study at Golden Boys Restaurant
- 1:00 P.M. Naomi Circle
- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 715 in the Memorial Room
- 5:30 P.M. Nar-Anon in Room 9/10
- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 195 in the Memorial Room
- 6:45 P.M. Boy Scout Patrol Leaders in the Basement Room
- 7:00 P.M. Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room

### Thursday, January 9

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 9:00 A.M. Glory Bells' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 10:00 A.M. King Circle in the Memorial Room
- 6:00 P.M. Alleluia Bells' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### Friday, January 10

- 9:00 A.M. Flying Club in the Social Room
- 10:30 A.M. BFF Book Study on Zoom
- 1:00 P.M. FNO Rehearsal in the Social Room
- 5:30 P.M. Girl Scout Event in the Social Room

### Saturday, January 11

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

### Sunday, January 12 - Communion

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in Room 3  
Youth Christian Ed. in the Youth Room
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. Session on Prayer Styles in Room 9/10  
Family Bells in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 617 in Room 9/10  
Girl Scout Troop 344 in the Social Room
- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 489 in the Memorial Room