

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight / Communion Worship*

December 24, 2019

11:00 P.M.

**Thought for Reflection**

*“There was a time when meadow, grave and stream,  
The earth and every common sight,  
To me did seem appareled in celestial light,  
The glory and the freshness of the dream.  
It is not now as it hath been in yore;  
Turn wheresoe’r I may,  
By night or day,  
The things which I have seen I now can see no more.  
Not in entire forgetfulness,  
And not in utter nakedness,  
But by trailing clouds of glory do we come from God, who is our home;  
Heaven lies about us in our infancy.”*

William Wordsworth

*“Ode on Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood”*

PRELUDE *Christmas Carols*  
Flute and Piano

WELCOME AND GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsively)

One: Come, O Come Emmanuel, come and be with us again.

**All: We celebrate the birth of the Christ child and await his coming again!**

One: Come, O Come into our lives in a new way.

**All: We actively participate in our world to build your reign on earth.**

One: Come, O Come Lord Jesus, come.

**All: Merry Christmas! Noel! Feliz Navidad! We celebrate with the world!**

**Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

ANTHEM *Gloria Hodie* arr. Turner & McChesney  
Bell Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE INVOCATION

HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High* # 23

MEDITATION “Why Was Jesus Born?”

ANTHEM *This Child of Light* McDonald  
Chancel Choir

A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION: (from a South American creed  
by Walter Russell Bowie)

We believe in Jesus Christ and his gospel, born to us all so long ago  
in Bethlehem of Judea.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

HYMN *The First Nowell* # 56

We believe in Him whose birth glorified Bethlehem, but for whom  
there was no room in the inn.

FIRST GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 2:1-7*

HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #44, verses 1,2,3

We believe in Him whose guiding star brought together to his  
manger the humble shepherds and the wise man.

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 2:8-14*

HYMN *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* # 22, verses 1 & 4

We believe in Him who walked among the common people, and  
who was welcomed by those with open minds and yearning hearts,  
whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the sick and the  
afflicted welcomed and accepted as their Lord and Savior.

THIRD GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 2:15-21*

HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* # 38, verses 1 & 4

We believe in Him whose life changed the course of history, over  
whom worldly kings had no power, and whose life humbled the  
proud, toppled the mighty and elevated those of low degree.

We believe in Him whose love changed human hearts for the better,  
whose life and death on the cross proved that it is more important to  
serve than to be served, and that greatest are those who give their  
lives in the service of others.

FOURTH GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12*

HYMN *We Three Kings of Orient Are* # 66, verses 1 & 5

We believe in Him who is the Prince of Peace, whose spirit makes  
for justice and peace among all peoples, everywhere.

We believe that the Christmas spirit – the Spirit of Christ – is the  
Spirit that changes the world for the better through the power of  
love, faith and hope.

HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #41

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*The Invitation*

*The Words of Institution*

*The Great Thanksgiving*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**Congregation: And also with you!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

**Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord!**

*Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (Debts/debtors)*

*The Communion*

(Please remain seated, and the elements will be brought to you.

Please wait until all have been served to partake.)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

SHARING "THE LIGHT OF LIFE" WITH OUR NEIGHBOR

(As the flame is brought by the Deacons to the center aisle,  
please carefully pass it to your neighbor until all candles are lit.)

HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night* # 60

RINGING IN THE CHRISTMAS MORN

\* HYMN *Joy to the World!* # 40

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

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We welcome our members, friends and visitors. Please pass the Friendship Pads found in the aisle chair racks along your row to let us know that you are with us this evening.

No formal offering will be taken today. If you wish to leave a gift, collection plates are located by the door as you exit.

The pastors thank you for your generous Christmas gift, and wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

**Webster Presbyterian Church**

550 Webster Road, Webster, NY

585-265-9700 [www.websterpres.org](http://www.websterpres.org)

Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

Worship on Sunday, December 29

9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Regular Worship Hours, Resuming Sunday, January 5

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary