

Celebration of Worship

December 27, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Reflection

Source: Unknown

I believe churches are meant for praising God. But, so are 2 a.m. car rides, showers, coffee shops, the gym, conversations with friends, strangers, etc. Don't let a building confine your faith because we will never change the world by just going to church. WE need to be the church.

Welcome and Announcements

Silent Meditation

Robert Flatt

"The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son."

Ring of the Bell

Invocation

All: O God, in the sweetness of the story we tell today, the encounter of old and young – Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus to the elders – we feel the movement of your Spirit making all things new. Awaken us to your presence in this moment as we seek Christ in our midst: Let us recognize God with us, a Light to the nations, your Glory revealed. In Jesus' name we pray.

Call to Worship

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

People: God is there.

Leader: When they present Jesus at the temple,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus as the answer to prayer,

People: God is there.

Leader: This very morning,

People: God is here.

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

People: God is there.

Leader: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, we know that you have been present to us throughout all of history, even throughout our own histories. We know you will be with us in our future. Yet often we don't live as if we know that. As Simeon recognized in Jesus the salvation of his people, we recognize in Jesus' Way our own wholeness and health, yet we often fail to follow. As Anna recognized in Jesus the redemption of her people, we recognize in Jesus God's saving grace for us, yet we often fail to rejoice and to share this good news. Forgive us, make us wise and joyful and strong so that we live in the understanding of your never ending love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Simeon and Anna were steeped in revered tradition, and yet spent their lives praying to recognize the action of God pointing to a future they could not imagine. Far from being held back by tradition, for them it was a constant stretch toward faithfulness: Where is God at work? What are the signs? What needs to be let go, entrusted to a new way, new people, new and unexpected shape? Ways of being Church are changing quickly in these Covid-19 days and "getting back to normal" may mean a "new" normal. So, in this moment, what are we clinging to? What do we need to relinquish so that we can recognize the call of God in this moment?

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Grace

All: God is faithful, and gives us grace in Christ Jesus. In this fellowship we can count on being enriched in speech, in knowledge, in every spiritual gift. Let us give thanks. In Christ, we are set free and sent forth to work for God's reign among us.

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.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!!
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light (Refrain)

The shepherd feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today, December 27

9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom
10:30 A.M. Meeting of the Congregation on Zoom
10:15 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel

Tuesday, December 29

5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10
7:00 P.M. Stewardship/Finance on Zoom

Wednesday, December 30

6:30 P.M. Men's Bible Study at Golden Boys and on Zoom

Saturday, January 2

9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. WELCOME to Webster Presbyterian Church! We are pleased that you are worshipping with us, whether by Zoom or in person. Those choosing to attend in person are reminded to make a reservation to attend by calling the church office and speaking to Georgia, or by emailing the church office by noon on Saturday.
2. A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION has been called by Session for today Sunday, December 27th, immediately following the regular worship service, for the purpose of nominating and electing officers to Session, Deacons and Trustees. Votes will be taken using the Zoom polling feature. Members may attend via Zoom or in person. The Zoom link will be the same as that for the morning worship service.
3. SUNDAY SERVICES continue to be live-streamed.
You can watch them live at 9:30 using:
Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/200521841> The password is **worship**.
or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/>
Or you can watch them later at your leisure using:
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/>
or YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>
4. THERE WILL BE NO ADULT EDUCATION TODAY.
THE ADVENT SERIES *GRACE* will conclude on Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 P.M. on Zoom. Check your email that week for the Zoom link.
5. Today is the final day for THE PCUSA CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. The Joy Offering distributes gifts to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. You may make your donation using the envelopes in the Sanctuary, by mailing a check to the church, or by visiting the "Give" button on the church Web site. For additional information, click on:
https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/2020_cjo_resources/cj20_god_is_with_us_bi.pdf
6. UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS for January/February are now available for pick-up from the bench outside the north entrance of the church.
7. 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick-up from the table outside the church office on Sunday mornings and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 pm. If you need your envelopes delivered to your home please call Georgia Hubbard (265-9700 or 265-1224).