

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Prelude

Reflection

Worship Book - United Methodist Church

A day of great glory is forecast. The people are told to watch for it at all times. Signs will precede its coming, as trees in leaf declare that summer is near. Advent is a time of such expectancy; its sign is a babe full of promise and hope. Therefore, "look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Song *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* # 398

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Leader: We have endured these past few years and know that there is more to face before us. We don't know if we have the strength to withstand what might be around the next corner. And we wonder who will stand with us, who will have our back, who will occupy our corner.

People: **Who is with us? That is what we begin to wonder these days. Who will light our way and chart our course? Who is on our side? Who will welcome us home again?**

Leader: Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to hope. A hope that calls us home, our true home where we're welcomed and loved and included, where there is justice and equality and peace. It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.

People: **We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our strong hope that there is a way to go home, to the home in Christ. And it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now. It's time to go home!**

Call to Worship

Leader: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In You I put my trust.

People: **Make me to know Your ways, O Lord. Teach me Your paths.**

Leader: Lead me in Your truth, and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

People: **According to Your steadfast love, remember me for Your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

Leader: Let us worship God!

Prayer of Praise

All: **God of redeeming grace, You lead us in paths of righteousness and make Your ways known through the birth of a child. We praise Your goodness and rely on Your wisdom. Accept the sounds of rejoicing we raise to You, and guide our hearing as we seek Your instruction. Grant that we may not only worship You joyfully, but also follow You faithfully all the days of our lives.**

Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* # 2

Prayer of Confession

All: **Great Deliverer, we entrust to You our confession of sin. We are easily discouraged when our good deeds do not make things better. We fear harm to ourselves if we take too firm a stand. Portents of danger arise about us, and we doubt the future You have promised. We close our eyes to the signs and live for the moment. God, in Christ, forgive our cowardice and blindness, for the sake of Him who endured the cross for us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The words of the psalmist remind us that the Lord is upright and good. God instructs sinners in the way of righteousness and leads the humble along paths of steadfast love. So wait upon God all the day long, abide in the covenant, and rely on the truth: God is our salvation and worthy of trust.

Gloria Patri

Leader: Let us pass the peace of God.

(Children in PreK through 5th Grade are dismissed to the Shine Program)

Scripture Readings *Psalm 25:1-10*
Jeremiah 33:14-16

Anthem *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Arr. Linda Lamb
Austin Hall - Bell Tree

Scripture Reading *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*
 Luke 21:25-38

Sermon *The God Who Comes* Rev. Joy Bergfalk

Good News Creed

All: This is the Good News which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; that He was buried; that He was raised on the third day; and that He appeared to the women, and that He appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve and to many faithful witnesses. We believe He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

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

Doxology and Blessing of the Offering

Service of Holy Communion

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: It is right, and a good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to You, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity and made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Invitation to the Table

Minister: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. Our Savior invites those that trust him to sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

Minister: Prayer of Thanks

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

Minister: Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord. Now all the people say,

People: Amen, Amen, and Amen!

Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* # 9

Benediction

Postlude

LECTIONARY PASSAGES

	<u>Today, November 28th</u>	<u>Next Sunday, December 5th</u>
Old Testament	<i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i>	<i>Malachi 3:1-4</i>
Psalm	<i>Psalms 25:1-10</i>	
New Testament	<i>1 Thessalonians 3:9-13</i>	<i>Philippians 1:3-11</i>
Gospel	<i>Luke 21:25-36</i>	<i>Luke 1:68-79; 3:1-6</i>

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MEMORY VERSE

Thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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585-265-9700 www.websterpres.org

Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.



There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There's a sweet expression on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise:
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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.

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.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: (after each verse)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. WELCOME to Webster Presbyterian Church! We are pleased that you are worshipping with us, whether by Zoom or in person.
2. SUNDAY SERVICES continue to be live-streamed.
You can watch them live at 9:30 using:
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/>
YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>
Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/200521841> The password is worship.
Or you can watch them later at your leisure using Facebook or YouTube.
3. SERVICE GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP –
Masks are required in the church building.
ALL ARE WELCOME. No reservations needed.
4. ADULT ED. - Join us following the worship service:
Today in the Social Room - *Preparing for Christmas, Daily Meditations for Advent* by Richard Rohr invites us to “an adult and social appreciation of the message of the Incarnation of God in Christ.”
Next Sunday - Bible Project DVD study of “*Hope*” and “*Peace*” in the Social Room.
5. DEACONS ARE SPONSORING THE ANGEL TREE again this year to benefit the Williamson Come-Unity Center. You can use the link below and search for the “Williamson Come-Unity Center Angel Tree” list to have your gift shipped directly by designating “Laura Oliver’s Gift Registry Address” in the shipping options. You can also select gift tags from our tree in the Narthex. Please bring your unwrapped items to church by next Sunday, December 5th.
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/A24YBQ17OOQX?ref_=wl_share
6. CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS FOR GRACE HOUSE men are now being collected until Tuesday December 14. \$10 gift cards for fast food restaurants such as McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy’s, Dunkin Donuts, Tim Hortons, and stores such as Walmart, Target, Dollar Tree and Dollar General are appreciated. Most of the men use buses for transportation so restaurants and stores in the city are preferred. Please put the gift cards in the offering plate or give them to Janet or Georgia in the church office or to Brad Adams.
7. ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available to enrich your Advent Season. *The Fullness of Time* by Henri Nouwen can be used by all, and for our families with young children, *Season’s Greetings: Welcoming Christ Through the Traditions of Christmas* can also be used. Booklets are located in the Narthex or on the bench outside the north entrance.

8. SESSION HAS CALLED A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on December 12th immediately after worship to consider three items. (1) Amending the church by-laws by (a) dropping the reference to the Associate Pastor, and (b) changing the size of the church boards as approved by Session, (2) Amending the church electronic meeting policy/electronic voting policy as approved by Session, and (3) Receive nominations and elect church officers.
9. THE POINSETTIA SALE has begun! The Deacons are offering Poinsettias for the congregation to purchase. The flowers will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas then can be brought home or donated to our Friends at Home. Check your December *Pathway* for details or contact Janet Chippero at janetchipper@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sunday, November 28 - First Sunday in Advent - Communion

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom
- 10:30 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel
- 10:45 A.M. *Preparing for Christmas, Advent Meditations* in the Social Room

Monday, November 29

- 7:00 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social and Basement Rooms

Tuesday, November 30

- 9:30 A.M. Women’s Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10

Wednesday, December 1

- 6:30 A.M. Men’s Bible Study at Golden Boys Restaurant
- 7:00 P.M. Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room

Thursday, December 2

- 6:30 A.M. Men’s Bible Study on Zoom
- 5:30 P.M. Girl Scout Troop in the Memorial Room
- 6:00 P.M. Alleluia Bells Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 7:00 P.M. Stewardship & Finance Meeting in Room 9/10

Saturday, December 4

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom
- ROC Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 5

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom
- 10:30 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel
- 10:45 A.M. Bible Project DVD on *Hope* and *Peace* in the Social Room
- 4:00 P.M. Youth “Guinness World Records” in the Social Room