

# Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

9:30 A.M.

## Prelude

## Meditation

From "We Gather", a PCUSA Worship resource

"The prophet proclaims a festival when all God's people will celebrate that God dwells in their midst. It will be a day for rejoicing, for singing songs of salvation, for exclaiming about all the deeds God has done among the nations. People in all lands will be united. Peace will be the priority with judgments erased, enemies cast out, and evil feared no longer, since God will gather all people together."

## Welcome and Announcements

## Special Recognition

## Ringling of the Bell

## Song

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

# 398

## Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy

Reader 1: It's a reunion every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home.

Reader 2: The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth, even now, even here. It is joy to go home.

Reader 1: John the Baptist reminds us, however, that it takes choices to live in this joy. It doesn't just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give and care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us. We build joy as we build a home in this world and the next.

*Light the Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy*

Reader 2: We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is our joy. It is time to go home.

## Call to Worship

Leader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.

**People: For the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.**

Leader: With joy you will give thanks to the Lord and call on God's name.

**People: We will sing your praises, O God, for you have done glorious things.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

## Hymn

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

# 5

## Prayer of Confession

**All:** Source of salvation, what shall we do? Our lives are unworthy of the goodness you offer. We complain of our condition when our wants go unnoticed. Contentment eludes us, since when we have plenty we still yearn for more. Millions face hunger while we fret over abundance. Through Christ, forgive us, yet grant us no peace until we share our bread with the hungry and our homes with those who lack shelter.

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: "Rejoice in the Lord, always; again I will say, Rejoice ... The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." In Christ we are forgiven.

## Gloria Patri

Leader: Let us pass the peace of God.

(Children in PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are dismissed to the Shine Program)

## Hymn

*Rejoice! Rejoice Believers*

# 15

## Scripture Readings

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

*Philippians 4:4-7*

## Anthem

*People, Look East*

*Alleluia Bells*

Cathy Moglebust

## Scripture Reading

*Luke 3:7-18*

## Sermon

*"Will That Preach?"*

Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.

## 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

**Hymn** *People, Look East* # 12

## Benediction

## Postlude

## Brief Congregational Meeting

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION will take place immediately following the service today in the Sanctuary for the purpose of:

1. Amending the church by-laws by
  - a. dropping the reference to the Associate Pastor
  - b. changing the size of the church boards as approved by Session. Session is recommending that each of the three church boards be reduced in size by three members.
2. Amending the church electronic meeting policy/electronic voting policy as approved by Session. The revised policy enables the church to conduct business electronically when in-person meetings are not possible.
3. Nominating and electing church officers for terms beginning in 2022.

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES

	<u>Today, December 12<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Next Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup></u>
Old Testament	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i> <i>Isaiah 12:2-6</i>	<i>Micah 5:2-5a</i> <i>Psalms 80:1-7</i>
New Testament Gospel	<i>Philippians 4:4-7</i> <i>Luke 3:7-18</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:5-10</i> <i>Luke 1:39-55</i>
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## MEMORY VERSE

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*  
*Isaiah 60:1*

**WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
550 Webster Road, Webster, New York 14580  
585-265-9700 [www.websterpres.org](http://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.

### **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

### **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.

### **Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers**

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising and soon He will draw nigh;  
Up, watch with expectation, at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;  
Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.  
The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;  
Arise, O heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear,  
Arise, Thou sun so longed for above this shadowed sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption and ever be with Thee!

### **People, Look East**

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table

People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad, though earth is bare; one more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

Bird, tho you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.

People look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch when night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. WELCOME to Webster Presbyterian Church! We are pleased that you are worshipping with us, whether in person or by Live Streaming.
2. SUNDAY SERVICES continue to be live-streamed.  
You can watch them live at 9:30 or later at your leisure using:  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/>  
or **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>
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 - Andy Stanley's DVD on a new look at the Christmas Story, "Light of the World: It's Personal", in the Social Room.  
Next Sunday - Advent Theater presents 2 short plays - *Tidings of Comfort and Joy* and *Live from Bethlehem* in the Sanctuary.
5. TODAY IS THE DEADLINE TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS. See Janet Chippero in the Narthex following today's service or email her today at [janetchipper@gmail.com](mailto:janetchipper@gmail.com) with your choice of red or white, your dedication, your plans to take or donate to Friends at Home, and how you plan to pay.
6. CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS FOR GRACE HOUSE men are now being collected until this coming Thursday. \$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. THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING, which we have done for many years, will be taken today through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. This denomination-wide offering gives emergency financial assistance to both retired and active pastors and other church workers, and provides scholarships for students of color that attend church-supported colleges. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution.
8. THE CURRENT HEART & HAND PROJECT is fleece hats and scarves for homeless people. If you would like to help, there are easy straight stitch hat kits on the table in the hallway outside the Sanctuary. For fringing scarves, please call Tina McNeary, 413-7809. We are anxious for them to receive these items soon.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 12

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Live-streamed
- 10:30 A.M. Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary  
Church of God by Faith in the Chapel
- 10:45 A.M. Andy Stanley Christmas Story DVD in the Social Room
- 4:00 P.M. Youth Games in the Social Room
- 5:30 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 617 in Room 9/10

### Monday, December 13

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

### Tuesday, December 14

- 9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10  
Girl Scout Leaders in the Social Room
- 6:30 P.M. Deacons' Meeting on Zoom
- 7:00 P.M. Boy Scout Committee in the Memorial Room
- 7:15 P.M. Trustees' Meeting in Room 9/10

### Wednesday, December 15

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study at Golden Boys Restaurant
- 7:00 P.M. Mission Committee in Room 9/10 and on Zoom  
Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room  
Boy Scout Committee in the Memorial Room

### Thursday, December 16

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 11:00 A.M. Staff Meeting in the Memorial Room
- 3:30 P.M. Book Club in Room 9/10
- 6:30 P.M. Boy Scout Committee in the Memorial Room

### Friday, December 17

- 7:00 P.M. Cub Pack 262 in the Social Room

### Saturday, December 18

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom
- 10:00 A.M. Consultant Interviews in Room 9/10

### Sunday, December 19

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Live-streamed
- 10:30 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel
- 10:45 A.M. Advent Theater in the Social Room
- 4:00 P.M. Youth Party in the Social Room