

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Prelude *An Advent Prayer* Louise E. Stairs

Meditation Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God.”

Welcome and Announcements

Special Recognition

Ring of the Bell

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

Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy

Reader 1: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don't always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

Reader 2: For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with, those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence. Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won't be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won't be alone. We seek a blessing.

Reader 1: Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to cousin Elizabeth's house looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet by God's grace it would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Reader 2: We light these candles, the candles of hope, of peace, of joy, and today – of love – as a sign that we know blessing and we know waiting for blessing to be something felt and something lived. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing. It's time to go home.

Recognizing Fifty Year Members

Call to Worship

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. Stir up your might and come to save us!

People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine that we may be saved.

Leader: Let us worship God.

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

Prayer of Confession

All: Most Holy God, in Christ You pour out Your mercy to forgive our transgression. Hear us now as we confess our sin. We err in our judgment of what You want from us. We seek to appease You with offerings, earn Your favor by doing good deeds, or garner a blessing through making some sacrifice. Forgive us our nature that is prone to buy favor, and in Christ restore us to a right relationship with You.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Micah foresees the Coming One, who shall stand and feed the flock. The people shall dwell secure in the majesty of God's name. Christ is our peace, and we can dwell secure in the knowledge that through him we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri

Ordination of Tyler Lense as Youth Elder

Passing of the Peace

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

Hymn *Song of Mary* # 600

Scripture Readings *Micah 5:2-5a*

Anthem *Advent Joy* arr. William Young
Chancel Choir

Lift up your heads ye mighty gates! The king of glory waits; the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

Redeemer come, in me abide. My heart is open wide; my heart is open wide.
Let me Thy holy presence feel; Thy grace and love reveal.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; a temple set apart, a temple set apart.
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with love and joy.

Scripture Reading *Luke 1:47-55*

Sermon *"A Celebration"*
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 and 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 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* # 11

Benediction

Postlude *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* J.S. Bach

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WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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.

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

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

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.

Song of Mary

My soul gives glory to my God, my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
My God has done great things for me: Yes, holy is this Name.
All people will declare me blessed and blessings they shall claim.
From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.
Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.
Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

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 Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

O Lord, how shall I meet You, how welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please You best.
Love caused Your incarnation, love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led You to embrace
In love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.
A glorious crown You give me; a treasure safe on high
That will not fail nor leave me as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever for You with praises new,
And from Your name shall never withhold the honor due.

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 - Advent Theater presents 2 short plays - *Tidings of Comfort and Joy* and *Live from Bethlehem* in the Sanctuary.
Next Sunday - No class.
5. THE DECEMBER PATHWAY DEADLINE is tomorrow. Please submit written items to the church office in person or email them to both jchippero@websterpres.org and g Hubbard@websterpres.org to ensure your articles are received.
6. THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING, which we have done for many years, is being taken now through January 2nd. 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.
7. 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.

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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*

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

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 Sanctuary
- 4:00 P.M. Youth Christmas Party in the Social Room

Monday, December 20 - December Pathway Deadline

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

Tuesday, December 21

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

Wednesday, December 22

- 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 23

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 6:00 P.M. Christmas Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Friday, December 24

- 4:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary and Live-streamed

Saturday, December 25 - Have a Blessed Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Live-streamed
- 10:30 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel

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LECTIONARY PASSAGES

| | <u>Today, December 19th</u> | <u>Next Sunday, December 26th</u> |
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| Old Testament | <i>Micah 5:2-5a</i> | <i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i> |
| Psalms | <i>Psalms 80:1-7</i> | <i>Psalms 98</i> |
| New Testament | <i>Hebrews 10:5-10</i> | <i>Hebrews 1:1-12</i> |
| Gospel | <i>Luke 1:39-55</i> | <i>John 1:1-14</i> |