

# Celebration of Worship

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

9:30 A.M.

***We are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing  
the love of God through faith and action, welcoming all.***

### Prelude

### Reflection

“How Love Transforms Us” by Amy Julia Becker

“Love waits. Love is patient, writes the Apostle Paul in *I Corinthians 13*. God doesn’t rush in to change our circumstances when He is inviting a change of heart. God will wait and wait and wait for us to recognize ourselves as His beloved ones. God will wait and wait and wait for us to turn to Him, to turn away from the things in our lives that keep us from Him. This doesn’t mean God’s love isn’t active. Rather, God’s love is patient in that He will offer it to us again and again, no matter how much we refuse it. In Advent, we are invited to join in God’s patient love by reaching out to those who have wounded us in the past, by giving ourselves to those who do not reciprocate, and by caring for those who have not cared for us. In Advent, we are called to remember that this is how God has loved us.

### Welcome, Announcements and Special Presentation

### Ring of the Bell

**Song** *Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place*

### Call to Worship

Inspired by *Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19*

Leader: We come seeking a sign from You, the One who sits upon the throne.

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

Leader: We come seeking to worship You, the One who dwells with us always.

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

Leader: We come seeking to witness Your might, a child to be born in the coming night.

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

### Invocation

Leader: God of love – Ferocious love, fierce love, unending love, everlasting love – We gather in this place with gratitude for the ways Your love has called us out of bleakness and into Your marvelous. We know of Your renown, and we stand in awe of Your work. In our own time, revive it; in our own time, make it known. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. Stir up Your might in this place. Give us life, and we will call on Your name as we worship You in spirit and in truth. Amen.

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

The Hewlett Family

### Hymn

*Canticle of the Turning*

### Invitation to Confession

Leader: We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy, and sharing love amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

Moment of Silence

Leader: God, our Shepherd – Restorer of our souls, in a world full of hopelessness, we have sometimes forgotten that You have shown Your hope in endless ways.

**People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may know Your hope.**

Leader: In the mirey mess of the world, we have sometimes neglected to lean into Your peace that transcends comprehension.

**People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may know Your peace.**

Leader: In a culture shrouded in doom and despair, we have often forgotten how to fight for our joy.

**People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may know Your joy.**

Leader: In a moment when it is easier to hate others because they believe differently, love differently, live differently, vote differently – we have forgotten how to love beyond the bounds of what separates us.

**People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may know Your love. Stimulate our memory, O divine Creator. Remind us that even in our weakness, You are mighty.**

### Words of Assurance

Leader: God has never left us nor forsaken us. God is Emmanuel in the face of crisis, Emmanuel in the midst of calamity, Emmanuel in the presence of tribulation. God with us, helping our unbelief, bringing us back to life, reminding us that we are light. Let that be good news.

### 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.

### Children’s Time

### Passing of the Peace

### Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**Scripture Readings**     *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*  
                                  *Romans 1:1-7*

**Anthem**                     *A Time for Advent*                     Steward Harris  
                                  Chancel Choir

We gather now to worship. We join our hearts to pray.  
Our souls are filled with wonder as we celebrate our faith.  
For soon we will behold Him, our eyes will see the Son.  
By faith we claim the promise. Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
We light the Advent candles. They warm us with their glow.  
We see their shining glory and the promise that they hold.  
For now the dawn is breaking; a new day has begun.  
We turn our heart to heaven. Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
This is a time to prepare for Jesus. This is a season of worship and praise.  
This is a moment to seek His glory. This is the dawning of grace.  
Let every land proclaim it; let every voice be raised.  
Let valleys be exalted, every mountain be made plain.  
Let deserts bloom like gardens; let every heart be one.  
We lift our songs together. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

**Scripture Reading**             *Matthew 1:16-25*

**Sermon**                         *“God Is with Us”*                     Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.

**Prayers of the People and Lighting of Prayer Candles**

**Prayer 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**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

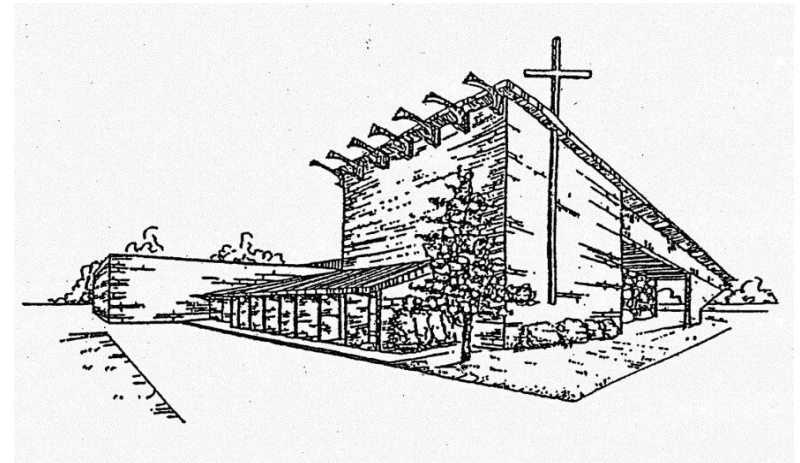
**Hymn**             *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*             # 457

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

\*     \*     \*     \*     \*

## WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*We are followers of Jesus Christ,  
living and sharing the love of God  
through faith and action,  
welcoming all.*

## Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

### Canticle of the Turning

# 100

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

#### Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,  
You work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. Refrain:

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. Refrain:

Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. Refrain:

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

# 376

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art.  
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all Thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

### I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

# 457

I greet Thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
My only trust and Savior of my heart.  
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake,  
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
Reigning omnipotent in every place.  
So come, O King, and our whole being sway,  
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live,  
And all our substance and our strength receive.  
Sustain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,  
And give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,  
No harshness hast Thou and no bitterness.  
O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,  
That we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in Thee;  
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free.  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 18

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. Shine Program for Children in Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 10:30 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel
- 10:45 A.M. Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary
- 3:00 P.M. Worship at Cherry Ridge
- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 489 in the Memorial Room

### Monday, December 19

- 4:00 P.M. Spiritual Nurture Committee on Zoom
- 6:30 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social & Memorial Rooms
- 7:00 P.M. Mission Committee in Room 9/10  
PNC in Room 1

### Tuesday, December 20 - Pathway Deadline

- 9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:30 P.M. TOPS Meeting in Room 9/10
- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 90 in the Social Room
- 6:30 P.M. Deacons' Meeting in Room 9/10

### Wednesday, December 21

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study at the home of Mark Coleman
- 3:30 P.M. Alzheimer's Association in Room 9/10
- 6:30 P.M. Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room

### Thursday, December 22

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 6:00 P.M. Christmas Bell Ringers' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### Saturday, December 24

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8020641367?pwd=VnlXcDITWjZlS2d0NE96dmVFeVB4dz09>
- 4:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Communion/Candlelight Service

### Sunday, December 25

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

## Christmas Flowers have been given by:

Brad & Kathy Adams in memory of loved ones;  
Beth & Michael Algase in loving memory of their  
parents, Albert & Edna Barie;  
Bob & Sandi Blakey in memory of loved ones;  
Joyce Bradstreet to the Glory of God;  
Jerri Breschard in loving memory of husband Paul and sister Pat;  
Clark & Janet Chippero in memory of loved ones;  
Jody Clark and Lori & Greg Singletary in memory of Bob & Joyce  
Clark and Hunter Dunlap;  
Marge & Terry Crumb in memory of Judy & Duane Crumb;  
Don & Nikki George in memory of their parents;  
Alta Harter & Debi Scott in memory of Edgar Harter;  
Tony & Georgia Hubbard with thanks to God for the gift of His Son;  
Thelma Leonhard in memory of loved ones;  
Chris, Alissa, Abbey & Liam Mayer in memory of Laura Rider, Kristie  
Rush, Tiffany Lill and Stefanie Fischer;  
Dick & Tina McNeary to the Glory of God;  
Steve & Laura Oliver in memory of Frances Oliver;  
Mark Pipal & Connie Rice in memory of loved ones;  
Arlene Sahmel to the Glory of God;  
Sally Turner with joy for the Christ Child;  
Greg, Mary & Hailey Vick in loving memory of Betty & George  
Sheehy;  
Kay Wahl in loving memory of sons Herbie & Gary Wahl;  
Sue Wroblewski in memory of Richard.



## Webster Presbyterian Church

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

Stated Supply Pastor  
Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.





**HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES**

**Christmas Eve**  
4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day**  
10:30 a.m.

**New Year's Day**  
10:30 a.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. WELCOME to Webster Presbyterian Church! We are pleased that you are worshipping with us, whether in person or by live-streaming. 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/UCzM5thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>  
 THIS SERVICE IS LIVESTREAMED on YouTube and Facebook. Participation in and/or observation of the service implies acknowledgement that your image may be seen on the stream at the time of the service and in the future, as the services are saved for future viewing.
2. A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING has been called for today, December 18, 2022 immediately following worship for the purpose of (1) If the way be clear, amending the church By-laws by approving a waiver allowing trustees to serve one additional year beyond the six-year consecutive term limit, and (2) Receiving the report from the Nominating Committee and electing church officers for terms beginning in 2023.
3. JOIN US after the Congregational Meeting here in the Sanctuary for a program of Lessons and Carols, scripture and songs that tell the Christmas story.
4. A GENTLE REMINDER to check out WPC's website, websterpres.org as well as FaceBook, Twitter or Instagram, as we will be posting visuals and verses of scripture each day during Advent. If you are without a computer or a mobile phone, there is a hard copy of an Advent Adventures Calendar in the Narthex for you to take home.
5. \$10 GIFT CARDS for Christmas for the men at Grace House are due at the church today. Contributions may be placed in the offering plates.

6. THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be collected until next Sunday. Donations are divided evenly between providing financial assistance to active and retired pastors and church workers who have serious financial problems, and scholarships to needy students of color at Presbyterian sponsored or assisted colleges. Envelopes are in the chair racks. Thank you for prayerfully considering a contribution.
7. HOPE MINISTRIES continues to serve the underserved in our neighborhood of Webster. Please help our extended families in Christ with your donations. The following items are especially needed now: chunky soup, canned cannellini beans, canned mixed vegetables, canned pineapple, body wash, and aluminum foil. Gently used clothing is always needed, especially men's gloves and hats.
8. HEART AND HAND is asking for your help to complete winter hats and scarves for Christmas bags for needy kids at State Road School. These wonderful, warm, happy items are a part of a New Beginnings outreach into our "neighborhood" school. Instructions are easy to follow and the finished items are snazzy. Please help.
9. DRIVERS are occasionally needed to pick up non-driving members who would like to worship in person on Sunday morning. If you are willing to provide transportation to someone on a Sunday morning, please call the church office or Nikki George (671-1103).
10. OFFERING ENVELOPES are located on the table in the hallway outside the Sanctuary for those who have indicated they would like them. If you would like envelopes and do not see a set for you, please speak with Georgia in the church office and they will be provided.

\* \* \* \* \*

**LECTIONARY PASSAGES**

|               | <u>Today, December 18<sup>th</sup></u> | <u>Next Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup></u> |
|---------------|--|--|
| Old Testament | <i>Isaiah 7:10-16</i>                  | <i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i>                        |
| Psalms        | <i>Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19</i>            | <i>Psalms 98</i>                             |
| New Testament | <i>Romans 1:1-7</i>                    | <i>Hebrews 1:1-12</i>                        |
| Gospel        | <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>                 | <i>John 1:1-14</i>                           |

**MEMORY VERSE**

*For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*  
*Isaiah 9:6*