

Celebration of Worship

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

9:30 A.M.

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Reflection

Audre Lorde

“Tell them about how you’re never really a whole person if you remain silent, because there’s always that one little piece inside you that wants to be spoken out, and if you keep ignoring it, it gets madder and madder and hotter and hotter, and if you don’t speak it out, one day it will just up and punch you in the mouth from the inside.”

Ring of the Bell

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

Call to Worship

Leader: From the safety and comfort of home, God called Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to be revealed.

People: **“Go from,” God says, and our hesitant hearts place one foot in front of the other to trust God with the unknown.**

Leader: By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus called him out of the shadows and towards a life born anew.

People: **“Go towards,” God says, and a new life awaits us. We reach towards a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.**

Leader: We fear the unknown and that which we lack in understanding. “How can this be?” we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God’s call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

People: **Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith. Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.**

Invocation

All: God of calls and courage, You draw us towards Your loving embrace even as we face what seems like impossibility. We experience heartache and grief, injustice and cruelty, fear and anxiety as daily teachers on this path of faith.

As You call us to go into an uncertain and unknown future, O God, grant us the courage needed to let go of all that we have known so that we can take hold of the new life You are bringing about even now. Though we may not know where we are going, God, Your way is revealed moment by moment, step by step, and breath by breath. In the name of the One who so loves the world, we pray. Amen.

Hymn *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* # 483

Prayer for Transformation

Leader: O God, we all too often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that You will provide. Forgive us in our unwillingness to live by faith or to not trust You with providing all that we need for the journey.

People: **May God’s mercy surround our weaknesses with grace for restoring us to hope everlasting.**

Words of Grace / Assurance of God’s Love

Leader: Friends, the call of God does not leave us isolated and condemned on a road of uncertainty, fear and mistakes made. God’s unending love and compassion is for all whose burdens are heavy and whose weary journey brings fears. May the tender arms of God carry you forth in strength.

People: **God has not come to condemn, but to offer a healing salve for our wounds. We welcome God’s healing and salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

Hymn *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* # 383

Scripture Readings *Genesis 12:1-4a*
Psalm 121

Anthem *Celtic Communion* arr. Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading *John 3:1-17*

Sermon *“The Call to Transform”* Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.

Affirmation of Faith

All: I believe in the living God, the Creator of all humanity, who creates and sustains the universe in power and in love. I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate on earth, who showed us by his words and work, suffering with others, and conquest of death, what human life ought to be, and what God is like. I believe that the Holy Spirit is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, forgiveness, the Word, the Sacraments, and community of the church, and in all that we do. Amen.

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

Service of Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: It is right, and a good and 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, 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

Pastor: 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 table in the kingdom of God. Our Savior invites those that trust him to sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

(A gluten-free option is available upon request to the server.)

The Words of the Institution

Pastor: Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord.

People: Amen, Amen and Amen.

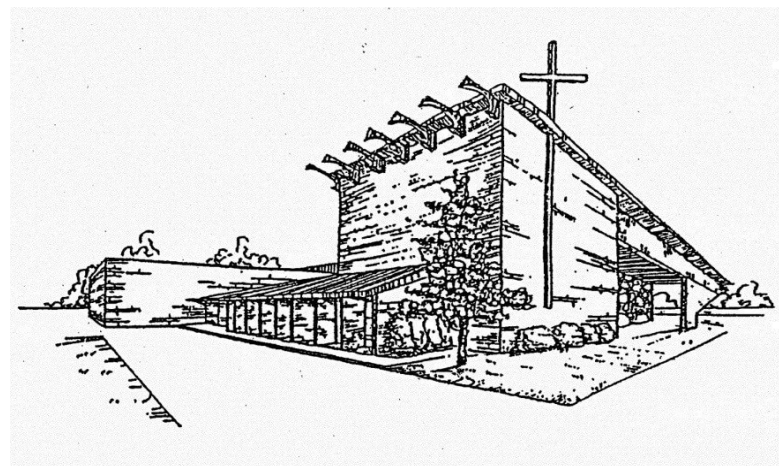
Hymn *To God Be the Glory*

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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.

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above #483

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might, Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
An ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

Thus, all my gladsome way along I sing aloud Thy praises,
That all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory!

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.

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LECTIONARY PASSAGES

	<u>Today, March 5th</u>	<u>Next Sunday, March 12th</u>
Old Testament	<i>Genesis 12:1-4a</i>	<i>Exodus 17:1-7</i>
Psalm	<i>Psalms 121</i>	<i>Psalms 95</i>
New Testament	<i>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</i>	<i>Romans 5:1-11</i>
Gospel	<i>John 3:1-17</i>	<i>John 4:5-42</i>

MEMORY VERSE *Isaiah 41:10*

*So do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

My Faith Looks Up to Thee #383

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear my while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.
As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be Thou my
guide:
Bid darkness turn today, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold sullen stream shall
o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

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.

To God Be the Glory # 485

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that he gave us His son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. Refrain:

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, March 5

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. Shine Program for Children in PreK through 5th Grade
- 10:30 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. DVD Lenten Series in Room 9/10 & on Zoom
- 4:00 P.M. Youth Fellowship in the Youth Room

Monday, March 6

- 6:30 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social & Memorial Rooms
Session Meeting in Room 9/10

Tuesday, March 7

- 9:00 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS Meeting in Room 9/10
- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 90 in the Social Room
- 7:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 454 in the Memorial Room

Wednesday, March 8

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study at Golden Boys' Restaurant
- 1:00 P.M. Naomi Circle at the home of Marj Shriver
- 6:30 P.M. Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room
- 7:00 P.M. Boy Scout Committee in the Memorial Room

Thursday, March 9

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 9:00 A.M. Glory Bells' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 10:00 A.M. King Circle in the Memorial Room
- 1:45 P.M. Adult Ed. Committee at the home of Carol Saylor
- 6:00 P.M. Alleluia Bells' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
Girl Scout Troop 752 in the Social Room
- 6:30 P.M. Youth Committee in the Youth Room

Friday, March 10

- 10:00 A.M. Flying Club in the Social Room
- 10:30 A.M. Book Club on Zoom

Saturday, March 11

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

Sunday, March 12

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. Shine Program for Children in PreK through 5th Grade
- 10:30 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. DVD Lenten Series in Room 9/10 & on Zoom
- 4:00 P.M. Youth Fellowship in the Youth Room
- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 617 in Room 9/10

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 acknowledgment 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. ADULT ED. - Following worship at 10:45 in Room 9/10 & on Zoom Today through March 26th - Join us for "Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today", a DVD series narrated by Adam Hamilton. This week we will look at the third and fourth commandments and the themes "I Swear to God" and "Rediscovering the Joy of Sabbath". The Zoom link is:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82938906726?pwd=NUIkaHpTY3hYR2pFZFhaN1U0NFE1Zz09>
3. A BOOK COLLECTION is being held for State Road students. New or gently used secular books, primarily for Grade levels K-3, but also chapter books for 4th & 5th graders, would be much appreciated. Storybooks, readers, beginning chapter books, and high interest books will be donated to children to help them find a love of reading.
4. PLEASE NOTICE that there are incubator cover kits with instructions included for interested volunteers to sew on the Heart & Hand table in the hall outside the office.
5. THE FOOD BARREL for items to be given to local food pantries is located in the upper Narthex. Current needs include: juice in plastic bottles, cooking oil, ketchup and coffee. Donations of soup, peanut butter, crackers, cereals, pasta and sauce, and more are always appreciated.
6. HOPE HOUSE is in constant need of food. Items on their wish list include canned or bottled fruit juice, applesauce, tuna, pasta, spaghetti sauce, Kleenex, shampoo, body wash and toddler underwear. A collection container is located in the upper Narthex, and there will be a drive-through food drive (no clothes, please) on March 25th, 10 to noon.

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Webster Presbyterian Church

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