

Celebration of Worship

July 30, 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 *Andante in F* Mozart

Welcome and Announcements

Special Announcement

Reflection Howard Thurman

“There must be always remaining in every life, some place for singing of angels, some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful.”

Ringling of the Bell

Song *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.

Call to Worship

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

People: It is a small seed, but has some surprises in store for us.

Leader: When it is grown, it is a very large shrub.

People: Even the birds can find places in its branches for their nests.

Leader: God’s transforming love begins in small ways to enter our hearts.

People: Lord, plant those amazing seeds of transforming love in us that they may grow into deeds of service to others in Your name. Amen.

Invocation

Leader: Lord of preparation and Lord of transitions; Lord of mustard seeds and yeast, we come to you this day, seeking Your word and will for us. Through this time of worship, give us courage to be yeast for the rising of hope and peace. Lord, join us and open our hearts to Your redeeming love. We call on You, Lord, to bind Your heart with ours and guide us to worship – in Spirit and in truth. We ask this in Christ’s name. Amen.

Hymn *There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* # 398

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, You plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that You want us to grow towards what you call us to be. When we deprive others of that same opportunity, forgive us. When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field, forgive us. When we label others as good or bad rather

than accept them for who they are, forgive us. When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat, forgive us. When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there, forgive us.

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Christ died for our sins. He made a full atonement for us. We are forgiven and we have the promise of eternal life and unending love. Feel that forgiveness of God in your heart and be certain of God’s love. Amen.

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 of God

Hymn *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* # 438

Scripture Readings *Psalms 105:1-11, 45b*
Romans 8:26-39

Special Music *Sonata in E flat Major* J S Bach
Allegro Moderato

Sally Turner, flute *Kat Jolliff, piano*

Scripture Reading *Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

Sermon

Choosing a Neighborhood
Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.

Affirmation of Faith

Excerpt from the *Confession of Belhar*

All: “We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells...”

Sharing Joys and Concerns 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

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

Blessing of the Offering

Hymn

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

540

Farewell Litany

Elder 1: A church community is constantly changing. Babies are born and baptized into the faith community, individuals and families join with us and sometimes move away, loved ones are called home to Jesus.

It is important for us to recognize and mark well these times of passage - these endings and beginnings. Today we bid farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Phil who has served us as Interim Pastor for the past three-and-one-half years, as his time with us has now drawn to a close.

Pastor Phil: I thank you, the people of Webster Presbyterian Church, for the love, kindness, and support you have shown me these many months. I thank you for accepting my leadership and receiving me as pastor in your midst for this time of transition. I recall with joy the many things we have been able to accomplish together, and with sadness the things we were not able to do. I trust that God will continue to work in your midst as you embrace new leadership.

Elder 2: We receive with thankfulness the ministry you have offered us in the time we have shared. We accept that you now leave us. We bid farewell to you trusting that God goes with you on that journey. Your presence among us will not be forgotten. We are grateful for the time you have been with us.

Elder 1: Do you, the people of Webster Presbyterian Church, now release Pastor Phil from the duties of Interim Pastor?

Congregation: **We do.**

Elder 2: Do you, Pastor Phil, release Webster Presbyterian Church from turning to you and relying on you to serve them as Pastor?

Pastor Phil: I do.

Elder 1: Let us pray.

O God of hope, whose love for us is trustworthy and true, we are grateful for the ways we have grown as a congregation during the season of transition; You have used Pastor Phil's gifts for the furthering of Your kingdom among us. In looking toward tomorrow, we trust Your hand to guide us. Send Pastor Phil forward in Your grace, by the power of Your faithful Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Elder 2: Go now, Pastor Phil, with our blessing, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Christ Jesus, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

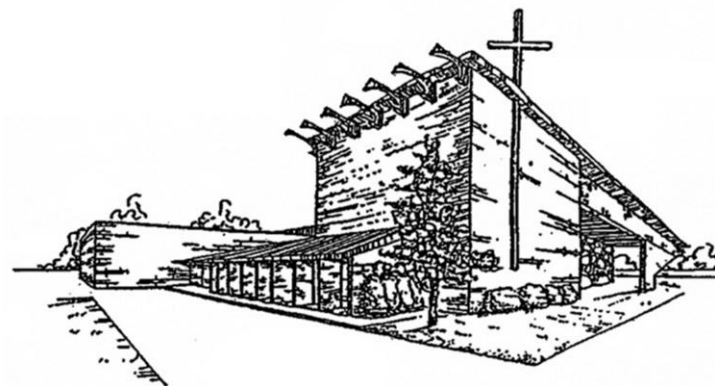
And all of God's people joined their voices to say, **Amen!**

Postlude

Prelude in G Major

J S Bach

WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

550 Webster Road
Webster, New York
585-265-9700 www.websterpres.org

Interim Pastor
Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

398

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face.
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

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.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe.
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Refrain

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

438

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free.
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

540

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again
God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings protecting hide you, daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you, put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you, smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

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.
2. THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION immediately following the Worship Service this morning to say our "goodbyes" to Pastor Phil. Please join us in the Social Room.
3. THE FLOWERS on the Communion Table are in recognition of Pastor Phil and all he has meant to us over the past few years. The beautiful arrangement was created by Sue Wroblewski.
4. OUR ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION for needy students at Williamson Come-Unity Center and Eastern Service Workers continues. Donations of individual sized pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, colored folders, scissors, rulers, index cards, spiral notebooks, tissue packs, hand sanitizer, and back packs may be placed in the "School Bus" in the Narthex.
5. SUMMER MISSION: Our special opportunity to help citizens in Ukraine during the war there continues. Our donations will provide medical supplies and food for those who have been badly impacted by that war. The small brown envelopes with the sunflower are in the chair racks for your donations.
6. AN INCREASE IN FOOD INSECURITY is rising in our community of Webster. Help is much appreciated to aid in keeping up with the demand. Items needed include: sugar, flour, jarred spaghetti sauce, cooking oil, **coffee, shampoo & conditioner, facial tissue, feminine products, **bar soap & body wash, and mouthwash – (** items of particular need.)
7. SUMMER BOOK READING SUGGESTIONS
 - *"We Make the Road by Walking"* is written by Brian McLaren, author, speaker, activist and theologian.
 - *"Unclobber, Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality"* by Colby Martin re-examines the six Bible passages, known as the "Clobber Passages," that stand against the full inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ siblings, as well as his own story of being fired for his own views by the church he was serving. Both books are available in the Narthex or the church office and will be discussed in the fall during the Adult Ed. offering time.

MEMORY VERSE

*"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Isaiah 55:9