

# *Celebration of Worship*

## *First Sunday in Advent*

December 3, 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**

### **Words of Welcome and Announcements**

### **Reflection**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us. Do you want to close the door or open it?”

### **Introit**

*An Advent Acclamation*

arr. Stacey Nordmeyer

Chancel Choir, Bells

Look to the light, prepare the way. Turn from night, embrace the day.

Let all creation praise with singing; set every bell in heaven ringing.  
Raise every candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon!

Look to the dawn, prepare your heart. Waken your song, let worship start.

This is a day of celebration; join in the music of jubilation.  
Raise every candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon!

Look to the star that gilds the East, golden of heart and burning with peace.

See now the torch is rising yonder, lifting our hearts with glorious wonder.  
Raise every candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon!  
Prepare the way!

### **Ringing 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.

### **Lighting the First Advent Candle**

### **Song**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

# 9 - Verse 1

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: God comes! So hold on to all of the reasons to rejoice.

**People: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.**

Leader: God comes! So keep lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

**People: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who hears our words and silence.**

Leader: God comes! So continue giving your hearts to God.

**People: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a peace we cannot begin to understand.**

### **Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

# 2

### **Prayer of Invocation**

Leader: God of all time, thank you for this particular time. Even as we acknowledge we're challenged, with threats around us and worries within, today we begin this new church year with you. Help us channel our energies and focus our hearts in this season of anticipation and active waiting for Jesus, the Coming One. We pray with thanksgiving, eager to offer our best to you. Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.**

Moment of Silence

Here at the beginning of Advent, how will you “keep alert” for God in the midst of so many responsibilities and distractions?

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

**People: Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**Gloria Patri**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Children's Time**

**Hymn** *While We Are Waiting* Insert

**Scripture Reading** *I Corinthians 1:3-9*

**Anthem** *Hyfrydol* arr. Cynthia Dobrinski  
Alleluia Bells

**Scripture Reading** *Matthew 13:24-37*

**Sermon** *Imperfect and In Process*  
Pastor Nadia Mullin

**Affirmation of Faith**

**All:** We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are allied according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, not things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles**

**Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (sung)**

**Invitation to the 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. Thank you!

**Doxology**

**Blessing of the Offering**

**All:** Holy God, thank you for this opportunity to be **AWAKE, ALERT, and ADORING** believers, acting out our faith through this offering. Wake us up from December doldrums and end-of-year exhaustion. Empower us to lives of heads-up hospitality and gracious generosity, that we might actively wait to see you in our midst, like the best servants staying alert for the return of their master. Amen.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** Insert

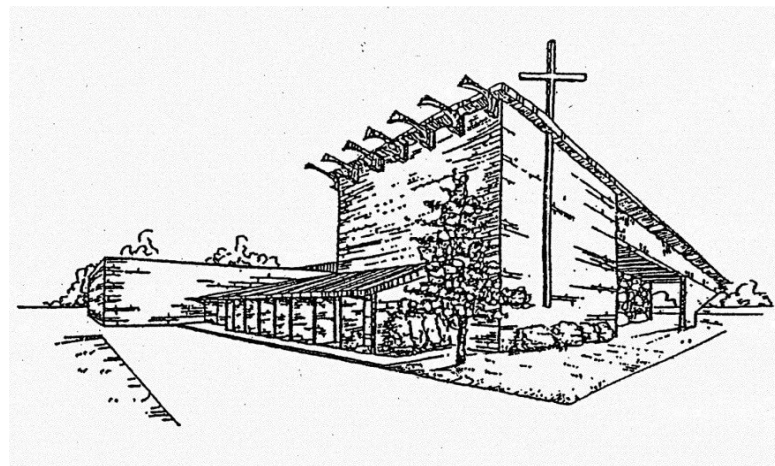
**Hymn** *Soon and Very Soon* Insert

**Benediction**

**Choral Response**

**Postlude**

## WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

Webster Presbyterian Church  
550 Webster Road  
Webster, NY 14580

585-265-9700 [www.websterpres.org](http://www.websterpres.org)

Pastor Nadia Mullin

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

# 2

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

## Gloria Patri

# 579

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Lectionary Passages

	<u>Today, December 3<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>December 10<sup>th</sup></u>
Old Testament	<i>Isaiah 64:1-9</i>	<i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i>
Psalm	<i>Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19</i>	<i>Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13</i>
New Testament	<i>I Corinthians 1:3-9</i>	<i>II Peter 3:8-15a</i>
Gospel	<i>Mark 13:24-37</i>	<i>Mark 1:1-8</i>

## Memory Verse



*“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid.  
I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.  
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
He is the Messiah, the Lord.’”  
Luke 2:10-11*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

#### Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. Shine Program for Children in PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. Book Discussion in Room 9/10

#### Monday, December 4

- 6:30 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social & Memorial Rooms
- 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting in Room 9/10 and on Zoom

#### Tuesday, December 5

- 9:00 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS Meeting in Room 9/10
- 5:30 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 90 in the Social Room
- 7:00 P.M. ROC Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary  
Emergency Team Meeting in the Memorial Room

#### Wednesday, December 6

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study at Golden Boys' Restaurant
- 6:30 P.M. Boy Scout Patrol in the Memorial Room
- 7:00 P.M. Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room

#### Thursday, December 7

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 9:00 A.M. Glory Bells Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 1:00 P.M. Small Group on Zoom
- 6:00 P.M. Alleluia Bells Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

#### Friday, December 8

- 9:30 A.M. Flyers' Club in the Social Room
- 10:30 A.M. BFF Book Discussion on Zoom
- 7:00 P.M. Bell Concert in the Sanctuary

#### Saturday, December 9

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

#### Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. Shine Program for Children in PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. Book Discussion in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 617 in Room 9/10

1. WELCOME to Webster Presbyterian Church! We are pleased that you are worshipping with us, whether in person or by live-streaming. You can live-stream 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. ADULT ED. at 10:45 in Room 9/10  
Today and next week - join us for a discussion of the book *God Is in the Manger* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, on which Pastor Nadia is basing her Advent sermon series. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not.
3. A HOLIDAY HANDBELL CONCERT by the ROC City Ringers and our own Alleluia Bells will be here in the Sanctuary this Friday at 7:00. Come with your family and friends as we ring in the Christmas season.
4. THE YELLOW ROSE is in recognition of a gift to the Endowment Fund by Cora Masseur.
5. AN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON for Pastor Nadia and our church staff will be held after Advent Theater on December 17<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to come and show your appreciation for all that they do. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office to let us know you will be here.
6. ORDERS FOR POINSETTIAS to decorate the church December 24<sup>th</sup> are being taken. Red poinsettias for \$15 can be ordered in the Narthex following worship, or by calling or emailing the church office by December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please make checks out to PWC and include a dedication that will appear in the bulletin. Flowers may be taken home after the 4:00 Christmas Eve service or donated to be delivered to our Friends at Home.
7. THE ANGEL TREE collections to benefit the Williamson Come-Unity Center continues through next Sunday. The tree in the Narthex is loaded with gift ideas for you to take. To shop on line, go to the Amazon wish list on the link below and place your order with a delivery time prior to December 10<sup>th</sup>, shipped to your home or to "Laura Olivers Gift Registry Address". If you have questions, contact Doreen Clark at 750-3904. All gifts need to be returned unwrapped by next Sunday.  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/A24YBQ17OOQX?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/A24YBQ17OOQX?ref_=wl_share)
8. CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS for the men at Grace House in Rochester are being collected until Sunday Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. These cards are for men who are in transitional housing because they are on parole, have been homeless, or are disadvantaged for some other reason. Please purchase \$10 cards for places that can be easily reached in the city such as McDonalds, Wendy's, Dunkin Donuts, Walmart and Target.

## Service of Holy Communion

### Invitation

Pastor: As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice are welcome here.

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: Blessed are you, Breath of peace, Giver of all life, Source of love that knows no boundaries. Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began; throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnated us with your hope for a world where: those considered last and least are first and most; violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and all siblings work together for peace.

You bring our longing to birth and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us. We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem; for those who, like the wise ones, actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion. We join in the Advent prayer of all your people, "O come, Emmanuel." And as we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness.

**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.**

Pastor: And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfills your purpose, we fall silent and remember him who came because words weren't enough. Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer. Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and cup and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

### Words of Institution

Pastor: Among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, and broke it, and said, "This is my body – broken for you." Later he took a cup of wine and said, "This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me."

**People: Amen, Amen, and Amen.**

Pastor: He whom the universe could not contain is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this cup. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God. All is prepared.

### Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

You will receive the elements in your seats today.

When you receive the bread, hold it so we can all partake together at the same time. Please do the same with the cup after you receive it.

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

### Concluding Prayer

**All: We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**

Hymn

*Soon and Very Soon*

Insert

Benediction

Postlude