

# *Celebration of Worship*

## *Second Sunday in Advent*

December 10, 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

“And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly ... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.”

### **Introit**

*The Echo Carol*

arr. Martha Thompson

The Family Ringers

### **Ringin 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 Second Advent Candle**

The Dolan Family

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: A voice cries in the wilderness,

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear.**

Leader: Lift up every valley; lower every mountain,

**People: For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.**

### **Hymn**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Insert

### **Prayer of Invocation**

Leader: Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All: Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy and greed; we have not been at peace.**

**We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name.**

Moment of Silence

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, what is the beginning of God's good news in your life, and how will it change the way you approach this season of expectation and hope?

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Siblings in Christ, by the mercy of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### **Gloria Patri**

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

### **Children's Time**

### **Hymn**

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

# 11

### **Scripture Reading**

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

### **Anthem**

*Bring Us Hope*

Ruth Elaine Schram

Chancel Choir; Helena Dixon - cellist

Bring us hope; bring us love; bring us peace from above.

Bring us hope, bring us love; peace and joy from above. Bring us hope.

Bring us light, take our darkness away. Bring us light, turn our night into day.

Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above. Bring us hope.

Hope to replace our hopelessness, love to refill our emptiness,

Peace in the midst of our distress; O how we need Your joy!

Bring us hope; bring us love; bring us peace, peace and joy from above.

Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above. Bring us hope.

### **Scripture Reading**

*Mark 1:1-8*

### **Sermon**

*A Good Mystery*

Pastor Nadia Mullin

## Affirmation of Faith

**All:** We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe, who speaks to us by the Spirit through what God has created and through what has been written for us in Holy Scripture. We believe that at just the right moment in time, God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe that this good news of great joy which heralded Jesus' birth also points us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to his empty tomb. There the angel's message "He is risen!" heralded the glorious good news of Christ's resurrection. We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day, and to offer us new and abundant life. We rejoice in the knowledge that he will one day return to rule in righteousness, to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

## Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles

### Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

### 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:** Spirit of Becoming, baptize our offerings in possibility. Accompany us as we learn to support one another's ordinary needs. Build with us systems of care, that systems of exploitation may crumble. Amen.

**Hymn** *Jesus, Light of Joy* Insert

### Benediction

### Congregational Response (sung)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

### Postlude

\* \* \* \* \*



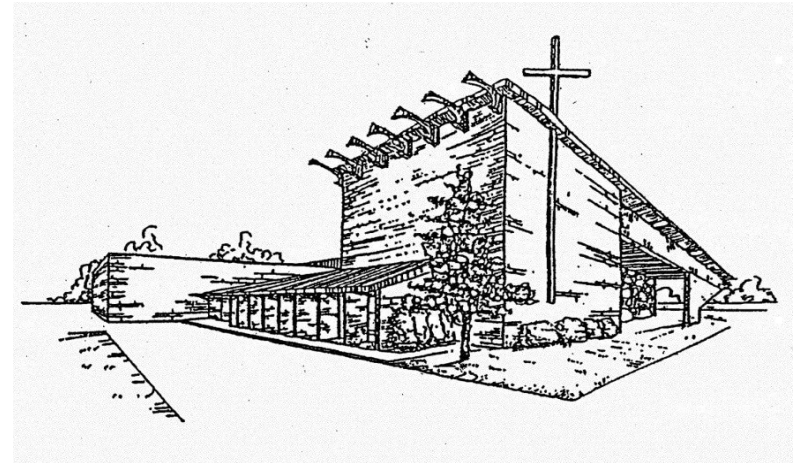
## Webster Presbyterian Church

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

Pastor  
Rev. Nadia Mullin



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through faith and action,  
welcoming all.*

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### Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor to bring all hearts together,  
He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing.  
His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving-kindness,  
The thunder of his anthems rolls to shatter all hatred and violence.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,  
The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless.  
The rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story.  
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

### 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.

### O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

# 11

O Lord, how shall I meet You, how welcome You a-right?  
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.

### 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.

### Jesus, Light of Joy

Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let your splendid glory shine,  
Source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign.  
Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.

Now the shadows fall around us; now the evening has begun.  
Still your gracious light is with us, brighter than the morning sun.  
Alleluia, alleluia, God of glory, Three-in-One.

With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might.  
All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night.  
Alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Lectionary Passages

	<u>Today, December 10<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>December 17<sup>th</sup></u>
Old Testament	<i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i>	<i>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</i>
Psalm	<i>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</i>	<i>Psalm 126</i>
New Testament	<i>II Peter 3:8-15a</i>	<i>I Thessalonians 5:16-24</i>
Gospel	<i>Mark 1:1-8</i>	<i>John 1:6-8, 19-28</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*

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### 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

### Monday, December 11

- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 752 in the Social Room
- 6:30 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social & Memorial Rooms

### Tuesday, December 12

- 9:00 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 1:00 P.M. Garden Club in the Memorial Room
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS Meeting in Room 9/10
- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Leaders in the Social Room
- 7:00 P.M. Trustees' Meeting in Room 9/10

### Wednesday, December 13

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

### Thursday, December 14

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 10:00 A.M. King Circle in the Memorial Room
- 10:30 A.M. Glory Bells to Heathwood Living Facility
- 6:00 P.M. Alleluia Bells Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### Friday, December 15

- 9:30 A.M. Flyers' Club in the Social Room
- 10:30 A.M. BFF Book Discussion on Zoom
- 1:00 P.M. Soup Preparation in the Kitchen
- 10:00 A.M. Heart & Hand in Room 5
- 6:30 P.M. Cub Pack 262 in the Social Room

### Saturday, December 16

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom
- 11:30 A.M. Girl Scout Troop 752 in the Social Room
- 1:00 P.M. Advent Theater Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 17 - Third 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. Advent Theater in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 A.M. Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Social Room
- 3:00 P.M. Worship at Cherry Ridge
- 5:45 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 489 in the Memorial Room

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 - Join us for a discussion of the book *God Is in the Manger*, on which Pastor Nadia is basing her Advent sermon series. All are welcome, whether or not you have read the book.
3. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED to the Women's Bible Study Advent time, "Advent in Plain Sight". We will hope to see the divine all around and within us as we anticipate the appearance of the Word made flesh. The group meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 in Room 9/10.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

4. ANGEL TREE unwrapped donations are due today.
5. ADVENT THEATER - Join us next Sunday following worship in the Sanctuary for the play "Clueless at Christmas", a comedy/mystery.
6. STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON next Sunday at 11:45 following Advent Theater - All are welcome to sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office as we show our appreciation to Pastor Nadia and the church staff.
7. ORDER POINSETTIAS to decorate the church Christmas Eve Sunday - Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office. Please include cash or a \$15 check made out to PWC and a dedication to appear in the bulletin. Orders are due by this Wednesday.
8. GIFT CARDS FOR GRACE HOUSE MEN - Cards are due by next Sunday. \$10 cards from McDonalds, Wendy's, Dunkin Donuts, Walmart or Target are much appreciated for men in transitional housing who are on parole, are homeless, or are otherwise disadvantaged.
9. CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - Donations to benefit students of color in Presbyterian Church sponsored colleges and Presbyterian pastors with urgent financial needs can be made by using the designated envelopes in the chair racks, or you can mail your gift to the church.