

Celebration of Worship

January 7, 2024

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

Audrey West

“Epiphany is a promise that God is here,
whether or not we notice the signs.”

Introit

We Three Kings arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
Glory Bells

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.

Call to Worship

Leader: Behold, the glistening sign of hope.

**People: A distant but shining star is cupped by the darkness that
gently holds the future.**

Leader: Do we dare to feel its warming glow in these days so cold with
fear?

**People: Do we dare to wonder where it leads us, or choose the
path we know?**

Leader: The Holy has painted possibility across the night sky.

**People: It flickers with potential, trembles with vulnerability,
shimmers with beauty, still.**

Leader: Come, seekers. The journey is before us.

People: A new day is born.

Hymn

What Star is This, with Beams So Bright # 68

Prayer of Invocation

Leader: Holy Guide, the entire cosmos is a messenger of your love.
You write it in the stars. You plant it in the soil. You nurture it in
the life of all creatures. May we be open to perceiving that we
might know and feel your presence with us. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

**People: As the magi brought you gifts, we are reminded of your
majesty, O Christ. You are the savior of the world who
embraced human frailty that we might receive salvation.
We ask your forgiveness for when we fail to recognize
your power, glory, and might. We don't offer you our best,
and live as if you aren't the king of everything. Please
captivate us with your glory as we confess our sins to
you, trusting in your mercy and grace.**

Moment of Silence

What stars are you following in your life?

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This Epiphany, the light of God has been made known to us
in the person of Jesus. His life and light have arisen upon us.
For all who receive him, he gives the right to become children
of God.

**People: In him we are forgiven and freed, made to live no longer
in darkness, but in the light of life. Amen.**

Gloria Patri

Passing the Peace of Christ

Children's Time

Hymn

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning # 67

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Anthem

Carol of the Star arr. Donald Moore
Chanel Choir

A star, a shining star, led wise men on their way
To find that Beth'lem town where lay a holy babe.
Venite adoremus dominum.

A star, a guiding star led angels from above
To seek a tiny babe, surround Him with their love.
Venite adoremus dominum.

A star, a mighty star did shine o'er all the earth
To welcome Him with joy, proclaim His wondrous birth.
Venite adoremus dominum.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

Where Are We Going?
Pastor Nadia Mullin

Time of Remembrance

Leader: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

People: we remember them.

Leader: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

People: we remember them.

Leader: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

People: we remember them.

Leader: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

People: we remember them.

Leader: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

People: we remember them.

Leader: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

People: we remember them.

Leader: When we are weary and in need of strength,

People: we remember them.

Leader: When we are lost and sick at heart,

People: we remember them.

Leader: When we have joys we yearn to share,

People: we remember them.

Leader: So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

Reading of Names and Chiming of the Bell

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: God of Wonder, at times we are taken aback by the calling of love. It can feel so radical – to profess and believe that we each have an offering to bring. That we are all essential. That there is enough grace and communion along the way. But like the wise ones, we desire to rise courageously to your beckoning. Bringing our gifts, bearing together the challenges of love's way. May we encourage one another on this shared journey. May we be confident in what we bring. May our offerings be blessed. Be received with delight. Be enough. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Insert

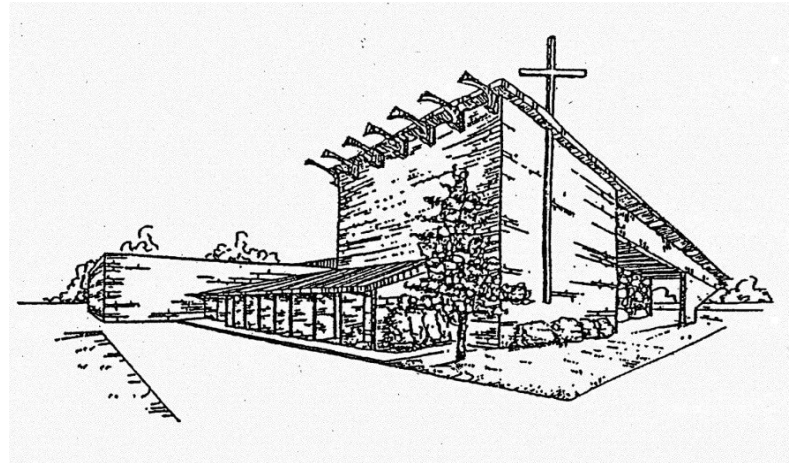
Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

66

Benediction, Choral Response and 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

Pastor Nadia Mullin

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor: Arise and Shine! God's love is here! Arise and Shine! God's love is born again, for you and for me, for me and for you! That little baby born that night, even then God wanted the world to know that this was something different. This was something special. So a star was placed in the sky to announce the Good News of the Lord's love born into this world. So a star was placed in the sky to shine and let the people know. So a star was placed in the sky to shine so that the people might follow. And they did. People followed that star. The one in the sky and the one born that night, who grew to be quite a light to follow, indeed. And all these years later, God has set some sort of star on each of our paths, calling us here, to be together, and to be with God. So, arise! Follow! Come close! Look around! And shine. Your light is come!

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: We give you thanks and praise, O God, because we know your story of love. We cling to these tales of our ancestors, of how you showed up in the hard times and how you rejoiced in the great times. How you moved the waters, quieted the storms, turned the hearts, mended the broken, toppled the unjust, loved the angry, fed the hungry and forgave the wrongs. We give thanks for that moment when you sent yourself here to be with us in the life of Jesus. We give thanks that even all these years later, you keep showing up, born into our hearts and into our world in bold new ways every day. Still. We know that through the Spirit you are at work in us still – still hoping, still healing, still leading the way, and loving us always. We give thanks for the mystery of this thing we call faith, for the tradition we call church, and for the gift we call ministry in your name. And so we lift our hearts in joyful praise and join our voices with believers from every time and place in singing to your glory...

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Be with us in this moment of sharing communion with you here in this place. And be with us as we go out from here, full of you, so that we might spread your love with passion and confidence everywhere we go.

Words of Institution

Pastor: On a different night, under a different set of stars, that same child, now grown and at the other end of his life, gathered his friends and they shared a meal. On THAT night, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me."

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember the birth, the life, the ministry, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We join in his story, and boldly follow that star, as a people who await his coming again in glory. Today we share this meal with one another. Friends, let us shine, and live in the light of the Lord.

Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

You will be receiving 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.

Gluten-free elements are available upon request to the server.

Concluding Prayer

All: Gracious God, you have shared Jesus with us. By your Spirit, make us now one with Christ, and one with all who share in this feast, who share in this story, who share in your love. And send us out from this place to boldly love in your name. Amen.

Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

66

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright # 68

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.
'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed." And lo!
The Eastern sages stand
To read in heaven the Lord's command.
O Jesus, while the star of grace
Impels us on to seek Your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of Your light to use.
To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in one,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise.

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning # 67

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!
Shall we then yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?
Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

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, January 7th</u>	<u>January 14th</u>
Old Testament	<i>Genesis 1:1-5</i>	<i>1 Samuel 3:1-20</i>
Psalm	<i>Psalms 29</i>	<i>Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18</i>
New Testament	<i>Acts 19:1-7</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 6:12-20</i>
Gospel	<i>Mark 1:4-11</i>	<i>John 1:43-51</i>

We Three Kings of Orient Are # 66

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.
King for ever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshipping God Most High.

Refrain

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

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 following worship for a continuation discussion of Brian McLaren's book *We Make the Road by Walking*, chapters 19-21.
Next week - We will cover chapters 22-24 in this week's discussion of *We Make the Road by Walking*.
3. ANNUAL REPORTS from Committee Chairpersons and Treasurers are due in the church office TODAY. You can submit your information by email to g Hubbard@websterpres.org as a Word or Excel file, or bring a paper copy to the church office.
4. 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.
5. A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION has been called by Sessin for Sunday, January 14th immediately following the worship service to receive the Nominating Committee's report and elect church officers.
6. SESSION HAS CALLED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation and corporation to be held in the Social Room on January 21st after worship for the purpose of (1) Receiving and approving the annual reports of the governing bodies and organizations of the church; (2) Receiving the 2024 church budget; (3) Electing at-large members for the 2024 All-Church Nominating Committee; (4) Bringing forward any other appropriate items.



Webster Presbyterian Church

550 Webster Road

Webster, New York 14580

585-265-9700 www.websterpres.org

Pastor

Rev. Nadia Mullin



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, January 7

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. Shine Program for Children in PreK through 5th Grade
- 10:00 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. Book Discussion in Room 9/10

Monday, January 8

- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 752 in the Memorial Room
- 6:30 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social and Memorial Rooms
- 7:00 P.M. Session meeting in Room 9/10

Tuesday, January 9

- 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, January 10

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study at Golden Boys' Restaurant
- 12:00 P.M. Naomi Circle in the Memorial Room
- 6:30 P.M. Boy Scout Patrol in the Basement Room
- 7:00 P.M. Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room

Thursday, January 11

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 9:30 A.M. Membership Committee meeting in the Office
- 10:00 A.M. King Circle in the Memorial Room
- 1:00 P.M. Small Group on Zoom

Friday, January 12

- 9:30 A.M. Flyers' Club in the Social Room
- 10:30 A.M. BFF Book Discussion on Zoom
- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 510 in the Social Room

Saturday, January 13

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom

Sunday, January 14

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. Shine Program for Children in PreK through 5th Grade
- 10:45 A.M. Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 A.M. Adult Ed. Book Discussion in Room 9/10

Memory Verse

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13