

# Celebration of Worship

## Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

9:30 A.M.

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

### GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Reflecting on 200 Years

Reflection

*"Grace is where my weakness meets God's strength."*

Ringling of the Bell

Gathering Song

*How Lovely, Lord*

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place.  
My soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest,  
And so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

Call to Worship

*Psalm 63:1-4*

Leader: O God, our God, we eagerly seek you.

**People: We have beheld your power and your glory.**

Leader: Your loving-kindness is better than life itself.

**People: So, we will bless you as long as we live.**

**All: Let us worship God in this holy place!**

Hymn

*Great God of Every Blessing*

Insert

Call to Confession

Leader: The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God, who is near.

Prayer of Confession

**All: Almighty God, though you lovingly tend us, we have not put forth the good fruits of your Spirit. Our consumption poisons the earth. Our violence threatens our neighbors. Our greed exploits the poor. We must seem a waste of time, but don't give up on us yet, O God. In your power to abundantly pardon, forgive us for the sake of Christ, and imbue us with love, peace, goodness and faithfulness.**

**Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Incline your ear and listen, so that you may live! God makes with us an everlasting covenant, the sure, steadfast love known to Moses, David and the ancestors, and revealed in Jesus upon the cross. Trust in the good news.

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

Sung Response

*We Are Forgiven*

Insert

Passing of the Peace

One: With thanksgiving, we rejoice in the reconciliation found in the forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ. Let us therefore be reconciled with our neighbors and share signs of Christ's peace. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

### THE WORD

Children's Time

Stu's Corner: *God's Grace*

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul. Then with our mouths, we will praise you, and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope.

**All: Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 55:1-9*

Anthem

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Don Besig &  
Nancy Price

Chancel Choir; Sally Turner, flute

When you feel discouragement, when you're lost and alone,  
Ask the Lord to help you. He will claim you as His own.  
If you need to find an answer, He will hear your silent prayer.  
Anywhere life leads you, you will find Him always there.

When your life seems empty, let Him take your hand.  
He will not forsake you; He will help you understand.  
With a heart that's always open, with a love that has no end.  
He will stand beside us. He's our Master and our Friend.

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.  
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

What a friend we have in Jesus. He is always at our side.  
Oh, what joy and peace it brings us knowing He will be our guide.  
You must follow where He leads you, and He will not let you stray.  
What a friend we have in Jesus. Won't you give your heart today.

**New Testament Reading**      *Luke 13:1-9*

**Sermon**      *"God of Grace"*      Pastor Susan Frost  
    *"...so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."  
    Isaiah 55:9*

**RESPONDING IN LOVE**

**Hymn**      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*      # 298

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

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Leader: Disciples of Jesus, children of God, we often spend our money on that which is not true bread, and labor toward things that will never satisfy. In our offering, we give to things that are of God: bread for the hungry, good news for those who are oppressed, the ministries of the church that welcome strangers and sons and daughters alike. We bring before God a portion of all that God has so freely given to us.

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

**Blessing of the Offering**

**All:** God of the wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us. By these gifts we now share, may others know of your providence and care. Send us -- not only our offering, but our very selves -- to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere at the one Table you have set; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MOVING IN GOD'S WAY**

**Hymn**      *God of Grace and God of Glory*      # 420  
                            Verses 1,2,3,5

**Charge**

Leader: On this third Sunday of Lent, we are urged to shake off the complacency that can overtake us; to seek God, as people in a dry and weary land seek water; and to bear fruit in our daily lives that contributes to God's kingdom of justice and love.

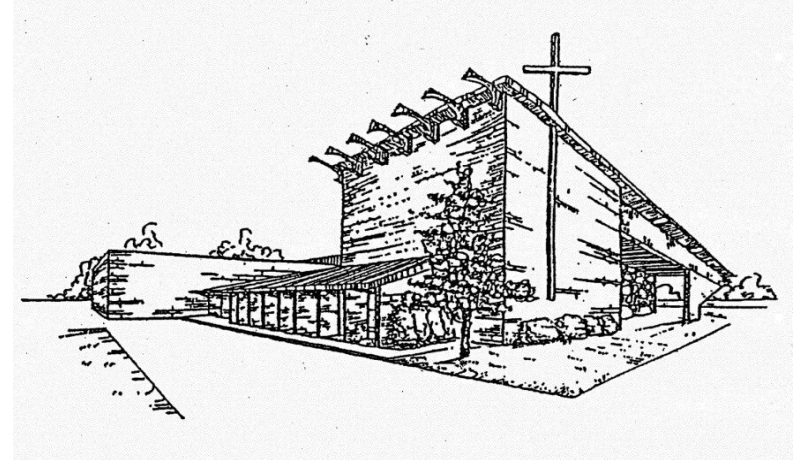
**Sung Response**      *May the God of Hope Go with Us*      Insert

**Benediction**

Leader: May the mercy of God ground us, the love of Christ take root in us, and the Holy Spirit grow in us, that we may be ready for the coming of the kingdom. **Amen.**

**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)

Stated Supply Pastor - Rev. Susan Frost

## 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>
2. ADULT ED. - Following the worship service in Room 9/10  
- We will spend the month using the book *Into the Mess*, looking at:  
This week: "Father, Forgive Them" - *Luke 23:32-37* (p. 181)  
Next week: "Today with Me" - *Luke 23:39-43* (p. 184)  
"It Happens in the Dark" – *John 20:1-18* (p. 187)
3. THERE WILL BE AN ORGAN RECITAL in our Sanctuary this afternoon at 3:00 pm. Come listen as Kat shares with us the selections she will be performing at her upcoming senior recital. The concert is open to all and free of charge.
4. KING CIRCLE INVITES ALL to a program on Health and Wellness for Seniors on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Room. Polly Sadler, a retired Physical Education teacher in the Webster School District, will be our guest speaker. Please join us and bring a friend!
5. A \$500 DONATION to assist the victims of the California fires is being sent from the church. If you would like to add to that total, please make a donation to WPC and it will be included in this effort.
6. WEBSTER HOPE HOUSE appreciates our congregation's donations as the challenges continue to increase. Needed items now include: ground coffee, cooking oil, Albacore tuna, sugar, brownie mix, ketchup, mayonnaise, salad dressing, canned corn, jarred spaghetti sauce, laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, deodorant and toothpaste.
7. PLEASE USE LIDS on your cups when bringing coffee or cocoa into the Sanctuary to avoid stains on the carpet from spills. Thank you.

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### Memory Verse

*Again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

*John 8:12*

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, March 23

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in Room 3
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. Discussion in Room 9/10
- 3:00 P.M. Organ Recital in the Sanctuary

### Monday, March 24

- 6:45 P.M. Scout Troop 262 in the Social Room
- 7:00 P.M. Webster Theater Guild in Room 9/10

### Tuesday, March 25

- 9:00 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10
- 7:00 P.M. Worship & Music Committee on Zoom

### Wednesday, March 26

- 6:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study at Golden Boys Restaurant
- 5:30 P.M. Nar-Anon Meeting in Room 9/10
- 7:00 P.M. Scout Troop 625 in the Social Room

### Thursday, March 27

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 9:00 A.M. Glory Bells' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 P.M. Alleluia Bells' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 7:00 P.M. Stewardship & Finance Committee in Room 9/10

### Friday, March 28

- 9:00 A.M. Flying Club in the Social Room
- 10:30 A.M. BFF Book Study on Zoom
- 1:00 P.M. FNO Rehearsal in the Social Room

### Saturday, March 29

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom  
ROC Ringers' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 1:00 P.M. Office Training in Room 9/10

### Sunday, March 30

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in Room 3
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. Discussion in Room 9/10

## . Lectionary Passages

	<u>March 23<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>March 30<sup>th</sup></u>
Old Testament	<i>Isaiah 55:1-9</i>	<i>Joshua 5:9-12</i>
Psalms	<i>Psalms 63:1-8</i>	<i>Psalms 32</i>
New Testament	<i>I Corinthians 10:1-13</i>	<i>II Corinthians 5:16-21</i>
Gospel	<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	<i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>

## One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) will be collected from March 23, 2025, until April 20 2025. The offering will then be received and blessed during the Easter Worship Service. This offering is split three ways:

- 32% of the funds support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (**PDA**)
- 36% of the funds support the Presbyterian Hunger Program (**PHP**)
- 32% of the funds support the Self-Development of People (**SDOP**)

Each of these three programs works in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. **PDA** works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. **PHP** takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. **SDOP** invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

In 2023, PDA granted \$6.1 million in 27 US States and 46 countries. 131 National Response Team members were deployed to 46 presbyteries. 1,837 work team volunteers served in donating 127,755 hours, totaling more than \$4 million in volunteer time. It provided \$256,000 in Migration Accompaniment ministry grants in the US. In partnership with Church World Service, 116,273 Gift of the Heart Kits and blankets were distributed.

In 2023, PHP gave 84 grants totaling \$1.1 million, impacting 19 countries including the US and Puerto Rico.

In 2023, SDOP entered into partnerships with the Newark Water Coalition, Newark, NJ, Direct Actions for Rights and Equality, INC, in Providence, RI, Payson Homeless and Homeless Veterans initiative in Payson, AZ, and with the Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals, in Sacramento, CA amongst many others including International Partners. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been a catalyst for love for over 75 years. Your gifts help those who are fighting for basic needs and seeking to change the structure that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. Your gifts bring a beacon of love and hope in our world and put the power of healing into the hands of those who need it most. We are the Church...together, and when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

### ***Great God of Every Blessing***

*(to the tune The Church's One Foundation)*

Great God of every blessing, of faithful loving care,  
You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start.  
Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,  
In death and life extending your covenant embrace.  
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part.  
Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,  
Transforming broken people into the holy church.  
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart,  
Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

### ***May the God of Hope Go with Us Every Day***

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
Singing, share our joy with all;  
Working for a world that's new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.