

Celebration of Worship

July 20, 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 and Announcements

Reflection

Maya Angelou

"Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future,
and renders the present inaccessible."

Ringling of the Bell

Gathering Song

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's 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: People of God, what are we here to do?

**People: To love the Lord our God with heart and soul, strength
and might.**

Leader: What are we here to do?

People: To love our neighbors as ourselves.

Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: You invite us, O God, to live in your ways, and you give
us to each other to know and to love as we journey in
this life. Show us your will for all creation. Help us to
listen to your urgings with prayerful hearts so that we
may honor what you have made, in the name of the holy
Trinity, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

268

Call to Confession

Leader: Claiming us in love, God beckons us to grow into that love
and to reflect that love to others. Yet sin obstructs our efforts
and prevents us from living as God intends. In penitence and
faith, let us seek God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

**All: Gracious God, Jesus tells us that our lives are enriched
by loving you and loving our neighbors. We confess that
love is hard for us. We are too selfish or too pessimistic,
too hollow or too hardened, or just too tired to give
ourselves to love's demands. Forgive our arrogance and
our listlessness. Cleanse our hearts that we might find
the strength to do what love requires and the grace to
receive what love has to give. We pray in the name of
Jesus, whose love has no boundary.**

Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Mercy ceaselessly flows from the heart of God. This is good
news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Sung Response

We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

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 - *"The Upside-Down Kingdom"*
by Becky Swanberg

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors, but in these last days,
God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ. Open our hearts
and minds to your Word, that we may see your light.

All: Amen.

1st Scripture Reading

Psalms 147:1-11

Special Music

"As Torrents in Summer"

Edward Elgar

Rose Fombe, soloist

2nd Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:1-12

Sermon

Celebrating the Upside-Down Kingdom

Rev. Susan Frost

"Not everyone can accept this teaching...let anyone accept this who can."

Matthew 19:11-12

RESPONDING IN LOVE

Hymn *Help Us Accept Each Other* # 358

Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Leader: Let us give thanks to God by giving our tithes and offerings.

Sung Response *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";

Let the poor say, "We are rich

because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks. Give thanks.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

All: For earth, which you have molded, for creatures and animals, plants, water, air and fire, for Jesus who died and rose again, for the breath of life, we give you thanks, O God. Let these gifts be used for good wherever there is need, in the name of all that you have first given us, especially Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

MOVING IN GOD'S WAY

Hymn *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* # 429

Charge

Leader: Go out from this place to a world fully known by God. Where there is fear, remember the authority of Christ Jesus. Where there is need of love, give it. Where there is pain, bring peace. For you are loved by the One who redeems, and freed to live by the Word of life.

Sung Response *We Are Marching in the Light of God* Screen

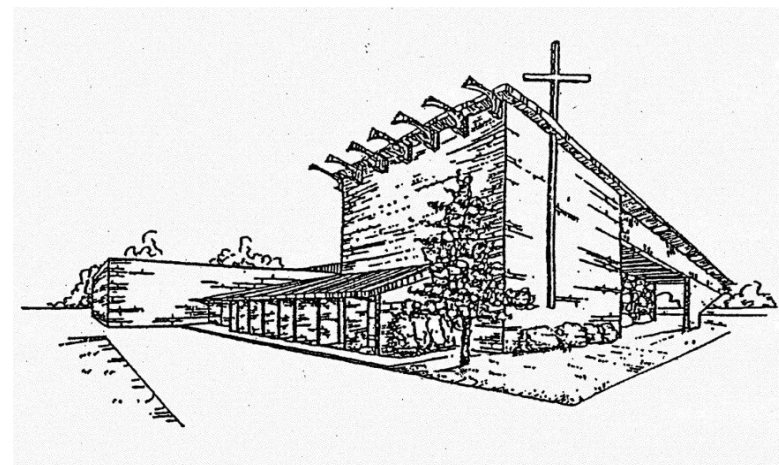
Benediction

Leader: May God, our Caretaker, be with us through good and bad, giving us wisdom to recognize each lesson and each blessing. May Jesus Christ, our Child Minder, embrace us each day in his loving arms that make us feel as if we belong, as if we are loved, as if we have a home. May the Holy Spirit, our Counselor, continually show us God's actions in our lives as we are reconciled to one another, siblings, one family, in God.

People: 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

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. CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS containing coloring/puzzle pages, crayons, pencils, and storybooks are available at the back of the Sanctuary for use during worship in the summer months. Please replace the tote bags when leaving so they can be replenished for the next week.
3. SCHOOL SUPPLIES for needy children served by the Williamson Come-Unity Center in Wayne County, and by Eastern Service Workers in Rochester are being collected through August 17th. Pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, pocket folders, scissors, rulers, index cards, wide-ruled spiral notebooks, all in small, individual sizes or containers, computer earbuds/headphones, and especially backpacks are needed. Look for the school bus in the Narthex to place your donations!
4. THE 2025 SUMMER MISSION PROJECT is underway now until the end of August. Monies collected will be divided between the Thogoto School in Kenya in memory of Eleanor Scott, and the Webster Community Chest in memory of Joyce Tompkins. We praise and thank all who have so far contributed \$5575, which puts us halfway toward this year's goal of \$10,000.
5. MUSICIANS AND LITURGISTS are needed to help with our summer worship services. Contact Lee Ann Daigle (ladaigle65@gmail.com) for music and Heather Hewlett (heather.hewlett@yahoo.com) for liturgist.
6. A LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE is being formed to look at the current and future needs of WPC in a rapidly changing environment. Members representing all ages and interests in the church are needed. If you are interested in being part of this group, please see Pastor Susan or call the church office.
7. HOPE HOUSE is in urgent need of shampoo and conditioner, diaper wipes and size 6 diapers. Non-perishable food items are also welcome. Collection bins are located in the Narthex.
8. FRIENDS AT HOME - The Deacons are reminding you to keep our Friends at Home in your thoughts and prayers. We would especially like to remember these church members on their birthdays. There is a basket of cards available for your use in the Narthex on the large welcome desk by the north entrance. Feel free to choose a card from the basket to remember these important members of our church. Addresses and birthdays for these folks can also be found in the basket. There are non-birthday cards too, if you would just like to send a note. We thank you for your help with this project.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, July 20

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 10:45 A.M. Sermon Discussion in the Sanctuary
- 3:00 P.M. Worship at Cherry Ridge

Monday, July 21

- 9:00 A.M. Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, July 22

- 9:00 A.M. Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, July 23

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study at Golden Boys Restaurant
- 5:30 P.M. Nar-Anon Meeting in Room 9/10
- 6:30 P.M. Session Meeting in Room 9/10

Thursday, July 24

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 9:00 A.M. Vacation Bible School
- 7:00 P.M. Stewardship & Finance Meeting in the Room 9/10

Friday, July 25

- 9:00 A.M. Vacation Bible School

Saturday, July 26

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

Sunday, July 27

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 10:45 A.M. Sermon Discussion in the Sanctuary

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Lectionary Passages

	July 20 th	July 27 th
Old Testament	<i>Amos 8:1-12</i>	<i>Hosea 1:2-10</i>
Psalms	<i>Psalms 52</i>	<i>Psalms 85</i>
New Testament	<i>Colossians 1:15-28</i>	<i>Colossians 2:6-15</i>
Gospel	<i>Luke 10:38-42</i>	<i>Luke 11:1-13</i>
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Memory Verse

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:1-2*

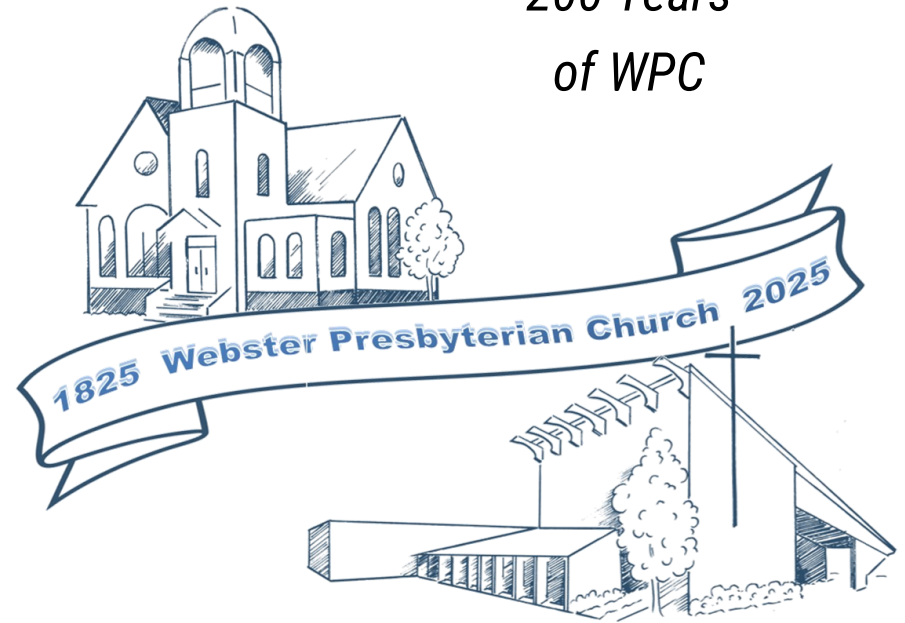
Sermon Study Questions

July 20th

1. In his book, *Un Clobber*, Colby Martin asks the question, "What would it look like to create a church that wasn't only about LGBTQ inclusion but clearly was founded as an open and affirming church because they had earnestly studied the Bible and were determined to undo the damage done by its misuse?" What do you think this might look like?
2. In his book, *The Gospel of Inclusion*, Brandan Robertson states, "One major recurring theme in the Synoptic Gospels is that Jesus continually finds himself battling with the religious leaders of his day over his seeming disregard for the religious dogma derived from the Hebrew Bible...Jesus, however, seems to take great delight in frustrating these religious leaders, offering new interpretations and further progressions on the law of old...Jesus clearly has no problem amending Scripture to be more ethical and inclusive, and therefore it cannot be argued that Jesus was working from a paradigm even remotely similar to that of modern biblical inerrancy. For Jesus, the Bible was a living text, always evolving and always being brought nearer to 'completion.'" (39, 42) Is it possible that in order to be faithful to God in our present age, we must be willing to step beyond our beliefs and traditions to widen the gates of the kingdom of God? Why or why not? Explain.
3. In *The Gospel of Inclusion*, Brandan Robertson says, "In our modern day, most evangelical Christians have been taught to hope for a second coming, when Jesus will appear, not as the Lamb of God, but as the warrior king who will make battle, shed blood, and once again become the ultimate image of domination and patriarchy...Christians have been taught to desire a Jesus who kills their enemies, supports their empires, justifies their abuse, and oppresses everyone who doesn't believe or look like them." (65-72) Compare the difference between the phrase "Lamb of God" to "Warrior King." Is there a difference? Could "teachings" on these possibly influence our understanding of God's Kingdom? If so, how and in what ways?
4. Austen Hartke says, "We Christians like to point at the person on the other side of the street who looks at the Bible through a different lens, or comes to a different conclusion about its meaning, and declare them heretics." (*Transforming*, 121) Is there any truth in his statement? Why or why not? Have you ever caught yourself doing this? Have you had it done to you?
5. Austen also points out that the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch is a story about two conversions. The eunuch got baptized and Philip changed his metric for who's in and who's out. (*Transforming*, 136) Philip affirms the eunuch; he baptizes them. Too often, the church has a metric for who's in and who's out. What is preventing the church from "full inclusion?" What needs to be done to change this? Is it possible for the church to change?

It's a Celebration!

200 Years of WPC



How many years has it been for you?

What can you share?

What brought you here?

What makes us dear to you?

We would like to include comments/stories from you in our 200th Anniversary Booklet!

Send us your stories by email to the Anniversary Committee at elainew@rochester.rr.com or to the church office.

Please submit your comments/stories by August 15th.

200 Years  Still Building

On this rock I will build my church Matthew 16:18b