

Celebration of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 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

Reflection

Richard Sibbes

"Measure not God's love and favor by your own feeling. The sun shines as clearly in the darkest day as it does in the brightest. The difference is not in the sun, but in some clouds which hinder the manifestation of the light thereof."

Ringin of the Bell

Call to Worship

Family: Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen,

People: to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

Family: Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,

People: to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.

Family: Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,

People: to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

Family: We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle in joy!

We light this candle with love.

Sung Response

Screen

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray

All: Loving God, help us to pray. Teach us the mystery of your divine providence and enable us to be obedient in your slight stirring within. May we not focus on our needs or wants, but on what leads to justice and peace, qualities of your kingdom. Amen.

Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

22

Call to Confession

Leader: God comes to us just as we are, with all our triumphs, our worries, our gratitude, and our failures. We deepen our relationship with God now by drawing close and confessing our sins.

Prayer of Confession

All: Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Time for Personal Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.

All: God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.

Leader: Through this abundant love, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sung Response

Gloria Patri

Screen

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.

Children's Time

Stu's Corner

The Legend of the Candy Cane

by Lori Walburg

THE WORD

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit, teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words and ponder them in our hearts, through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

The First Lesson

Genesis 1:26 – 2:4

Carol

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

9, verses 1,3

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol

"Once in Royal David's City"

49, verses 1,2

The Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-35

Carol

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

38, verses 1,4

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Carol "What Child Is This" # 53, verses 1,2

Anthem "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" arr. Ingram
Alleluia Bells

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" # 31, verses 1,2

Reflection "Hopes and Fears" Rev. Susan Frost
"...the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."
Phillips Brooks 1868

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" # 44, verses 1,3,4

RESPONDING IN LOVE

Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (Debts/debtors)

Invitation to the Offering

Leader: With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

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!

Sung Response *In the Bleak Midwinter* Screen

Prayer of Dedication

All: Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamation, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

MOVING IN GOD'S WAY

Hymn "Go Tell It on the Mountain" # 29

Charge

Leader: Let us go, trusting that in Jesus Christ, God is with us. Emmanuel. This day, this Christmas, and forevermore, God is with us. Emmanuel

Blessing

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you today and always.

All: Amen.

Postlude

Poinsettias have been given by:

Brad & Kathy Adams in memory of family and special loved ones;

Beth & Michael Algase in loving memory of Albert, Edna, Charlie and Ed Barie;

Bob & Sandi Blakey in memory of loved ones;

Jerri Breshard in memory of Chuck Durand;

Clark & Janet Chippero in memory of loved ones;

Doreen & Matt Clark in memory of Doris & Stan Rice;

Jody Clark and Lori Singleton's Families in loving memory of Bob & Joyce Clark and Hunter Dunlop;

Stu & Carol Cooper in loving memory of their parents;

Shirley Crane to the Glory of God;

Gayl Galen in memory of her parents;

Bob & Holly Grocki in memory of Tom & Jean Grocki and Jim & Joan Moran;

Barb Hach to the Glory of God;

Tony & Georgia Hubbard in memory of loved ones;

Sarah Mossey in gratitude for family;

Nancy & Bill Martin in loving memory of Mary & Bill Martin, Pat & Jim Sauer, and Heather Martin;

Laura Oliver, in memory of Jan DeVos;

Connie Rice;

Arlene Sahmel;

Sarah Stein;

Elaine & John Wilbert in memory of loved ones;

Sue Wroblewski to the Glory of God



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. A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION has been called by Session for today, December 21st, following the worship service for the purpose of electing the class of 2028 Ruling Elders, Deacons and Trustees.
3. THE CHURCH OFFICE will be open this week on Monday and Tuesday, 9 am to 3 pm. New Year's week the office will be open Monday and Tuesday, 9 am to noon.
4. NEXT SUNDAY we say "Goodbye" to Pastor Susan. All are invited to stay after the service that day for a reception for her so we can express our gratitude for the service she has provided our church, and to wish her well in her future endeavors. There will be coffee, snacks and a cake provided.
5. CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING collections to provide emergency aid to retired pastors and scholarship aid to needy students of color continue through January 4th. Envelopes for your donation are in the chair racks or you can send a check to church.
6. ANNUAL REPORTS from Committee Chairpersons and Treasurers are due in the church office by Sunday, January 5th. You can submit your information by email to ghubbard@websterpres.org as a Word or Excel file, or bring a printed copy to the church office.

Lectionary Passages

	December 21 st	<u>December 28th</u>
Old Testament	<i>Isaiah 7:10-16</i>	<i>Isaiah 63:7-9</i>
Psalms	<i>Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19</i>	<i>Psalms 148</i>
New Testament	<i>Romans 1:1-7</i>	<i>Hebrews 2:10-18</i>
Gospel	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	<i>Matthew 2:13-23</i>

Memory Verse

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger."

Luke 2:15-16

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, December 21

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-Streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK – 5th Grade in Room 3
Youth Christian Ed. in the Youth Room
- 10:45 A.M. Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
- 12:30 P.M. Dance Showcase in the Sanctuary & Social Room
- 3:00 P.M. Worship at Cherry Ridge
- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 344 in the Memorial Room

Monday, December 22 - Church office open 9 am to 3 pm

Tuesday, December 23 - Church office open 9 am to 3 pm

- 5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10
- 7:00 P.M. Worship & Music Committee on Zoom

Wednesday, December 24

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study at Golden Boys Restaurant
- 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Streamed

Thursday, December 25 - Merry Christmas !

Saturday, December 27

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

Sunday, December 28

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-Streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK – 5th Grade in Room 3