

# Celebration of Worship

January 4, 2026

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

### Words of Welcome and Announcements

#### Reflection

Edith Wharton

"There are two ways of spreading light:  
to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

#### Ringin' 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: We have followed the star, seeking the Christ child.

**People: We come with hearts open, bringing our gifts of love and service.**

Leader: The light of Christ shines for all people.

**People: We rejoice in God's gift, revealed to every nation.**

Leader: God calls us to worship, to serve, and to follow.

**People: With joy we respond, guided by the Spirit's light.**

Leader: Let us give glory to God in the highest.

**People: And may peace shine on all God's people.**

#### Hymn

*Shout to the North*

Insert

#### Opening Prayer

**All: Most Holy God, as we who gather on this day remember your great Gift of Love, let us come close with reverence and with joy, knowing that in the light of this new year, your great Light, the Word made flesh, will shine upon each darksome day – the light of mercy, grace and peace. We draw closer, and in your presence, bless your Holy Name. Amen.**

#### Call to Confession

Leader: God of Light, you spoke and the world began. Your Word shines in the darkness, yet we confess that we do not always live as people of the light.

#### Prayer of Confession

**All: We grow comfortable in the shadows, hiding parts of ourselves, ignoring what we would rather not see, turning away from neighbors who reflect your image.**

The true Light has come into the world, but we often fail to recognize the Light. We miss your presence in ordinary moments, in vulnerable bodies, in voices that challenge our assumptions.

Forgive us, O God. Clear our vision. Open our hearts to receive the Word made flesh, that we may step out of the shadows and live as children of your light.

#### Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession

How do I hide the light?

How have I extinguished the light?

#### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**All: From Christ's fullness we have received grace upon grace. In Jesus Christ, the Light made flesh, we are forgiven, restored, and set free to live as God's beloved children. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### Sung Response

*Gloria Patri*

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.

#### Passing of the Peace

## THE WORD

#### Children's Message

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading

*Jeremiah 31:7-14*

#### Anthem

*"Your Light Has Come"*

Jon Paige

Chancel Choir

Arise and shine, your light has come; the Savior of the nations.  
Arise and shine, your light has come, behold Emmanuel.  
The glory of the Lord has come!  
Come, and rejoice, come and see what God has done.  
Arise and shine, your light has come, the hope of all creation.  
Arise and shine, your light has come, let joy awake the dawn.  
The glory of the Lord has come!  
Come, and rejoice, lift your voice; arise, your light has come.  
Hear the tidings that we bring: heaven's declaration.  
Mountains ring and canyons sing. Hear the proclamation.  
Call His name Emmanuel: God with us abiding.  
Now the heavens shine and tell. See His star is rising.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**

*John 1:1-14*

**Sermon**

*"Finding the Light"*

John Kubinieć

**RESPONDING IN LOVE**

**Hymn**

*I Met a Stranger on the Road*

I met a stranger on the road who read a book alone,  
Whose skin was dark and language strange, whose status was unknown.  
And yet he read my sacred text, this pilgrim from abroad,  
And asked, "Where can I find a guide to lead me to this God?"

I told the story of the Christ whose life denounced each wall,  
Whose love expands our narrowed sights, the Lamb raised up for all.  
And when I asked if he believed, I saw my view was flawed:  
We both encountered grace that day; we both were led by God.

For when we draw our boundary lines dividing out from in,  
Then Christ stands on the other side; exclusion is our sin.  
Praise God for strangers on the road – the different and the odd –  
The pilgrim guides who take our hand and lead us back to God.

**Affirmation of Faith**

Insert

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

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

**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!

**Sung Response**

*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.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**All: This offering now we give into your hands, for all gifts find  
their source in you. We ask that what we now share may  
further carry out your mission in the world. Also, take our  
lives and mold them so that they may be a blessing for you  
too.**

**MOVING IN GOD'S WAY**

**Hymn**

*O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

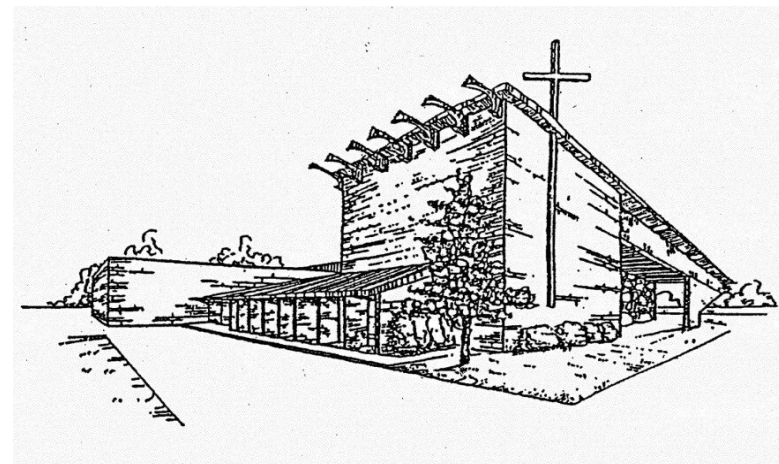
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**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

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**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)

Pastor - Rev. Russ Roth

## Affirmation of Faith

**Left:** We believe in God, who has revealed the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,

**Right:** *the Light of the world, who comes to shine into the darkness of our lives.*

**Left:** We celebrate the star that led seekers to the Christ child,

**Right:** *reminding us that God's love reaches beyond all borders and boundaries.*

**Left:** We believe in Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to be born among us,

**Right:** *yet is exalted and sovereign over all creation.*

**Left:** Through his life, death and resurrection, he calls us to follow,

**Right:** *to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.*

**Left:** We believe in the Holy Spirit, who illumines our hearts,

**Right:** *guiding us in truth, inspiring hope, and empowering us for service.*

**Left:** As the Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh,

**Right:** *we offer our gifts – our time, our talents, our lives – in faithful response.*

**Left:** We believe that God's promise is for all people,

**Right:** *and that in Christ, the nations are drawn together in peace.*

**Left:** We affirm that God calls us to be light-bearers in the world,

**Right:** *proclaiming the good news of salvation to every corner of creation.*

**ALL:** In this Epiphany season, we recommit ourselves to Christ, the light that shines in the darkness, the hope for all nations, the joy that cannot be extinguished.

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## Lectionary Passages

	<u>January 4<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>January 11<sup>th</sup></u>
Old Testament	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalms	Psalms 147:12-20	Psalms 29
New Testament	Ephesians 1:3-14	Acts 10:34-43
Gospel	John 1:1-18	Matthew 3:13-17

## Memory Verse

*I am about to do a new thing:*

*now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?*

*I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

*Isaiah 43:19*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING DEADLINE is today. Collections provide emergency aid to retired pastors and scholarship aid to needy students of color. Envelopes for your donation are in the chair racks
2. ANNUAL REPORTS from Committee Chairpersons and Treasurers are due in the church office by today. You can submit your information by email to [g Hubbard@websterpres.org](mailto:g Hubbard@websterpres.org) as a Word or Excel file, or submit a printed copy to the church office.
3. 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the table outside the church office. If you do not see a box with your name on it and would like one, please contact the church office and one will be provided.
4. ADULT ED. meets in Room 9/10 following today's worship service to contemplate how to examine and prepare our hearts for the new year.

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, January 4

- 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. – Preparing Our Hearts for the New Year
- 12:00 P.M. Church of God by Faith in the Chapel

### Monday, January 5

- 6:00 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 752 in the Memorial Room
- 6:45 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social Room

### Tuesday, January 6

- 9:00 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10

### Wednesday, January 7

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study at Golden Boys Restaurant
- 5:30 P.M. Nar-Anon in Room 9/10
- 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts Patrol Meeting in the Memorial Room
- 7:00 P.M. Scout Troop 425 in the Social Room

### Thursday, January 8

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 10:00 A.M. King Circle in the Memorial Room
- 6:00 P.M. Alleluia Bells' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 6:45 P.M. Boy Scout Committee in the Memorial Room

### Friday, January 9

- 9:00 A.M. Flying Club in the Social Room
- 10:30 A.M. Books, Friends & Faith Meeting on Zoom
- 1:00 P.M. FNO Rehearsal in the Social Room
- 5:00 P.M. Girl Scout Event in the Social Room

### Saturday, January 10

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom
- ROC Ringers' Rehearsal in the Sanctuary