

**HYMN NOTES:**

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (123)**

This text was written by Edmund H. Sears, a Massachusetts Unitarian minister, who was deeply involved in the “social gospel.” It was first published in *The Christian Register* in December 1849. This was the first of the carol-like hymns from the pens of American poets. Hymns stressing the social message of Christmas—‘peace on earth, good will’—are distinctly American. Based on Luke 2:13-14, it is a call for us to respond to the song of the angels and to send back to heaven the message that we will make peace on earth. After 2000 years, we are still working on that!

The tune is by Richard S. Willis and was composed for a different text. Willis was born in Boston and studied at Yale and then with Felix Mendelssohn in Germany. When he returned to New York he became a music critic for various publications.

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO...**

**Sunday, December 20:** Jacqueline Graziano, Sandy Seckel,  
Polly Brown, Jere Gunderman, Karen Gipson  
**Tuesday, December 22:** Steve Rickrode, Jonathan Luther  
**Wednesday, December 23:** Jan Botsford, Greg Brinkman  
**Friday, December 25:** Bill Bitner, Bobbi Hunt, Patty Martin  
**Saturday, December 26:** Jim Warren

*If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven't seen them in church recently, give them a call!*



*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by*



**Friends of Northwood**



Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the “2020 Flower Reservation Chart” on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. During this time when we are not meeting for in person worship, please send your information directly to [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org)

Please remember to mark “flowers” and the date on your \$30 donation.  
Thank you to those providing flowers each week In Honor/In Memory of someone or an anniversary/birthday!

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

John 13:35

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Wednesday Bible Study**, led by Cindy Huffman

A study of the Book of Matthew meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm through Zoom. The study guide being used is *The Immersion Bible Study: Matthew* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. If you'd like to join the Wednesday Bible Study or need a study book, please email Cindy Huffman at [lucindyl@aol.com](mailto:lucindyl@aol.com) and she will forward you the Zoom link. All are welcome!

**Experiencing God Class**, led by Vicki Krueger

If you'd like to join the Experiencing God class virtually via Zoom at 10:30am on Sunday mornings, please contact Vicki Krueger via email at [vickilee33@aol.com](mailto:vickilee33@aol.com) and she will send you the meeting details each week.

**Fresh Brewed**

Fresh Brewed will meet on the first Friday of every month at 10:30am via Zoom. The next meeting is February 5th. The book we are studying is “Deeply Rooted; Knowing Self, Growing in God” by Christopher Marcie. Please contact Louise Mylin for a Zoom code and if you have any questions (727) 787-9868.

**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Citylight Schedule  
12/20 - 12/27**

- ★ **SUNDAY 12/20**  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM - LIVE STREAM CHURCH  
10:15 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL VIA TEAMS  
4:00 PM - YOUTH & FAMILIES CHRISTMAS PARTY - SEE THE SIGN UP FOR DETAILS
- ★ **MONDAY 12/21**  
10:15 AM - METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES MISSION TRIP - SEE THE SIGN UP FOR DETAILS
- ★ **TUESDAY 12/22**  
8:00 PM - YOUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM
- ★ **WEDNESDAY 12/23**  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM - OUTDOOR CITYNIGHT
- ★ **THURSDAY 12/24**  
7:30 PM - VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
- ★ **SUNDAY 12/27**  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM - LIVE STREAM CHURCH  
10:15 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL VIA TEAMS  
8:30 PM - COLLEGE GROUP VIA ZOOM

**Follow the link to view our weekly email:**  
<https://mailchi.mp/6da7a9bd214f/citylightupdate-12152020>

**Welcome To  
Northwood Presbyterian  
Church**

*A Stephen Ministry Church  
Organized February 19, 1978*

**December 20, 2020**



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF**

*Advent*

**Ministers: All Members of the Church**

E. Chris Curvin, Pastor  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761  
(727) 796-8090 Fax (727) 797-8276  
[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)



**Like us on Facebook!**  
[facebook.com/npc.clearwater](https://facebook.com/npc.clearwater)

Order for the Public Worship of God  
December 20, 2020  
4th Sunday of Advent  
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Douglas E. Wagner  
Jubilation Handbells  
“O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. Mark Hayes  
Piano and Organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP “Love Came Down at Christmas” GARTAN  
Stephanie Carson, Soloist

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus, but where-with for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;  
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.*

*Text by Christina G. Rossetti, 1895*

PRAYER OF THE DAY Paul Means, Associate Pastor

CAROL #119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born king!”

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE  
Lighting the Candle, Kevin, Laura, Shannon & Liam O’Leary

*The reader offers words about the candle of love.*

RESPONSE  
Reader: ....and so we offer this mysterious prayer:  
All: Lord Jesus, into our darkness, quickly come.  
All singing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*  
While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we  
sadly confess having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord, for  
not bending the knee, for not reading your Word, for not searching  
our hearts, for not facing our sins. Grant that when Christmas morn-  
ing comes to us, we may have a fresh resolve to live to the praise of  
Christ’s glory. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE REGENT SQUARE  
Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
you who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born king!

SOLO “Breath of Heaven” arr. Lloyd Larson  
Sarah Flaherty, Soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom  
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day  
our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is  
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

CAROL #140 “Once in Royal David’s City” IRBY  
*(stanzas 1,2,4)*  
Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and weak and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

SERMON Advent Series: The World Is Not Yet Finished  
#4 “Turning Towards Love”  
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

CAROL #123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL  
*(stanzas 1,2,5)*  
It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angel sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years shall come the time fortold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Toccata on MENDELSSOHN” Joel Raney  
(Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

Stephanie Carson, Music Director  
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

IGNITE

ignite is a contemporary worship service at 9:00 that delivers the message of Jesus Christ through Powerful Music, Media & Scripture Based Sermons.

COUNTDOWN

WELCOME

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

David & Cynthia Lawrence

VIDEO

“Advent: Love”

PRAISE SONG

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“A Strange Way to Save the World”

SCRIPTURES

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

MESSAGE

Advent Series: The World Is Not Yet Finished

#4 “Turning Towards Love”

Chris Curvin, Pastor

SONG OF DEDICATION

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

Sermon notes...

that Ignite Action!