## Northwood Presbyterían Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) 2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761 www.northwoodpc.org

## Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 24, 2020 7:30 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Laura Garcia, Director of Schools
Stephanie Carson, Director of Music
Thomas D. Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director
Emily Cantin, Director of Communications
Chris Hurst, Business Administrator
Linda O'Leary, Bookkeeper

## Order for the Public Worship of God December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve 7:30 PM Worship Service

PRE SERVICE MUSIC (7:20)

"Silent Night"
"O Christmas Tree"
"The First Noel"
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"
"Silent Night"
"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"
"The First Noel"

Ellis Cantin

Brianna Adkisson

Aidan McDermott Dylan Cantin Celestial Orff

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

"Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella"

Keith Chapman

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

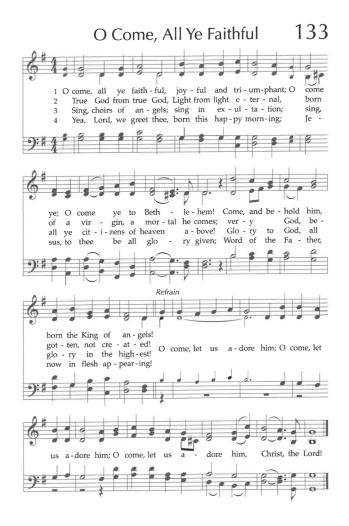
Chris Curvin, Pastor

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN #133 (stanzas 1,2,3,)

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELIS



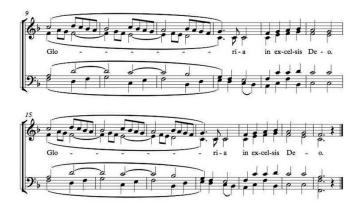
#### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Lighting the Candle, Tom & Cindy Huffman

The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

#### **RESPONSE**

All singing: 'Gloria' from Angel's We Have Heard on High



OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY —Paul Means, Associate Pastor

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

TRIO "The Birthday of a King"
Michele White, Barbara Jordan, Stephanie Carson

W.H. Neidlinger

ANNUNCIATION Luke 1:26-33

MAGNIFICAT Luke 1:46-55

(read responsively)

- L: "My heart praises the Lord, my soul is glad because of my Savior.
- P: For he has remembered me, his lowly servant!
- L: And from now on all people shall call me blessed
- P: because of the great things the mighty God has done for me.
- L: His name is holy; he shows mercy to all who fear him, from one generation to another.
- P: He stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud people with all their plans.
- L: He brought down mighty kings from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.
- P: He filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands.
- L: He kept the promise he made to our ancestors; he came to the help of his servant Israel,
- P: And remembered to show mercy to Abraham, and to tell his descendants forever!"

#### **CAROL MEDLEY**

(All singing first stanzas)

#113 Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

#115 Away in a Manger

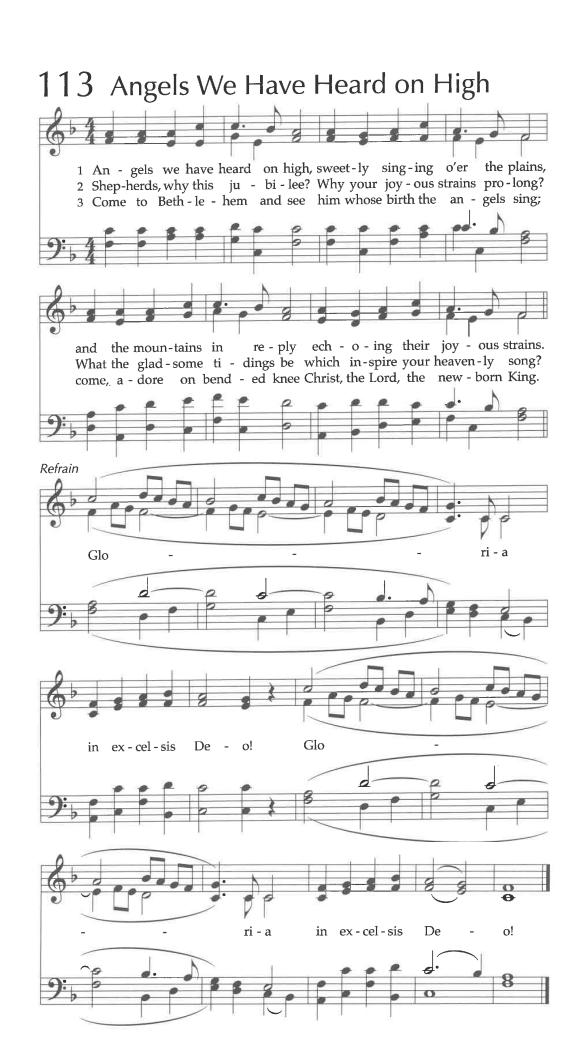
AWAY IN A MANGER

#121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS IN DULCI JUBILO

#132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Carol Singers: Michele White, Barbara Jordan, Dennis Rasmussen, Garry Justice



## 115

## Away in a Manger



Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

## 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.



Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

BIRTH Luke 2:1-17

**QUARTET** 

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Rachelle Cox, Stephanie Carson, Bill Martin, Dick Casper arr. Howard Helvey

OFFERING WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS —The Helping Hands Fund

**SERMON** 

Advent Series: The World Is Not Yet Finished #5 "Turning Towards Christ"

Chris Curvin, Pastor

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (recording from December 24, 2018)

CAROL #122 "Silent Night" STILLE NACHT



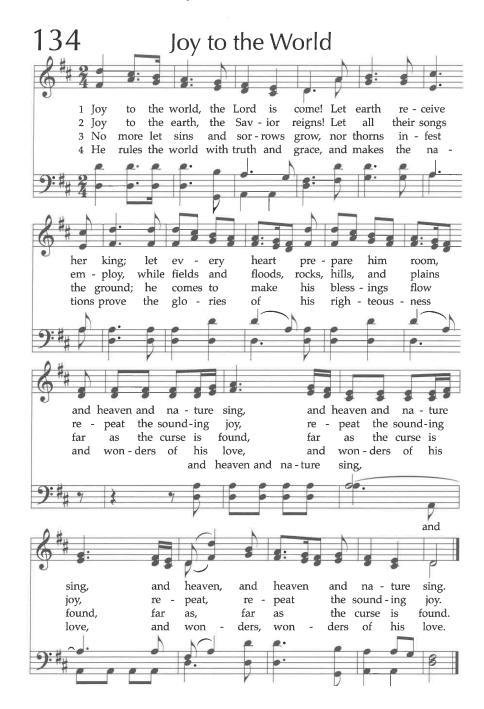
## REDEDICATION OF OUR LIVES TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**CAROL # 134** 

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH



### **BENEDICTION**

"Carol of the Bells" **CLOSING VOLUNTARY** 

Douglas Wagner

Tracey Birch, Emily Cantin, Stephanie Carson, Linda Feller, Cindy Huffman



# The Pastors, Church Officers & Staff of Northwood Presbyterian Church wish you a very joyous Christmas and New Year.

## The Meaning of the Christ Candle

For the past four Sundays we have been waiting—lighting the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Tonight, as we see the light of the center candle, we are reminded that this is the Christ Candle, for without Christ, there would be no Christmas. The Christ Candle can remind us of the expectation of Mary, the songs of the angels, the enthusiasm of the shepherds and the homage paid to the Christ child by the Magi. For we, too, live in joyous expectation of seeing Jesus face to face; we, too, sing alleluia to our King; we, too, run with excitement to tell others of this Shepherd King; and we, too, pay homage to the one who came to save us. On this Christmas Eve, may we all believe, so that we might become children of God.

## **The Helping Hands Fund**

Tonight's Christmas Eve Offering is for the Helping Hands Fund. Gifts given this evening are used to help those in our community with significant needs who come to our church office during the year. Thank you for your generosity in the spirit of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:31-46.

#### **Worship Services, December 27th**

There will be Worship Services on Sunday, December 27th LIVESTREAMED at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Pastor Paul will provide a sermon entitled "The Staggering Declaration of Christmas" based on the passage from Luke 2: 22-40.

**Sunday, January 3rd** we will continue with both worship services, 9:00 A.M. contemporary & 11:00 A.M. traditional.



