Northwood Presbyterian 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”  
Ellis Cantin
“O Christmas Tree”  
Brianna Adkisson
“The First Noel”  
Aidan McDermott
“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”  
Dylan Cantin
“Silent Night”  
Celestial Orff
“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”  
“The First Noel”

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

[Sheet music image]
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”  W.H. Neidlinger
Michele White, Barbara Jordan, Stephanie Carson

ANNUNCIATION  Luke 1:26-33

MAGNIFICAT (read responsively)  Luke 1:46-55

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
#132  Good Christian Friends, Rejoice  IN DULCI JUBILO

Carol Singers: Michele White, Barbara Jordan, Dennis Rasmussen, Garry Justice
113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Gloria

in excelsis Deo! Gloria

in excelsis Deo!
115  
Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D)  
    F

1  Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
(A7)  
    C7

2  The cattle are lowing; the poor babe wakes,
(D)  
    F

3  Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
     (G)  
    Bb

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
     (D)  
    F

but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
     (G)  
    Bb

close by me forever and love me, I pray.
     (D)  
    F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
     (A7)  
    C7

I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky.
     (D)  
    F

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
     (Em)  
    (A7)

closer Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
     (D)  
    F

and stay by my side until morning is night.
     (Gm)  
    C7

and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.


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.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, c. 1885; stanzas 3, Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1892
MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

MUELLER 11.11.11.11  
(alternate tune: CRADLE SONG, 114)
121  O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Beth-le-hem, how still we see thee lie!
   A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
   Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
   the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.

2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
   while mor-tals sleep, the an-gels keep their watch of won-dering love.
   O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
   and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
   So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
   No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
   where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;
   cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.
   We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;
   O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

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.
132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heav'n's door,
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the ever-lasting hall.
Christ was born to save!

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.
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

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
4. Silent night, holy night! Wonderous star, lend thy light;

‘Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia;
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our


ia: Christ the Sav-i-or is born; Christ the Sav-i-or is born!”

grace, Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth.

King: Christ the Sav-i-or is born; Christ the Sav-i-or is born.
REDEDICATION OF OUR LIVES TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

THE LORD’S PRAYER

CAROL # 134                                           “Joy to the World”

134 Joy to the World

1 joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive
2 joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-

her king; let every heart prepare him room,
em-ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
ations prove the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness

and heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture
re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his
and heaven and na-ture sing, and

and

joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy,
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY                          “Carol of the Bells”
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.

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NPC Guest Wi-Fi  Now live streaming our 9:00 & 11:00 services on northwoodpc.org.