

Northwood Presbyterian Church

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

Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24, 2021
4:30 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Roxane Fineo, Director of Schools
Stephanie Carson, Director of Music
Emily Cantin, Director of Communications
Chris Hurst, Business Administrator
Kim Dickson, Bookkeeper

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Friday, December 24, 2021

4:30 PM

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Bell Peal on ‘How Great Our Joy’” arr. Linda R. Lamb
Hallelujah Ringers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor
(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)

*CAROL #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES
(stanzas 1,2,3)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God from true God, Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Peter, Susan & Laura Gajentan

The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

RESPONSE

MUELLER

All singing: **We honor Messiah, with Christ’s candle flame.
Our Christmas Eve candles, glad tiding proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night;
As God comes among us, the Christian’s true light.**

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MUSICAL OFFERING “Carol of the Bells” arr. Andrew Duncan
Aidan McDermott, Piano

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38 Brianna Adkisson & Delaney Pope

MUSICAL OFFERING “Breath of Heaven” by Amy Grant
Barbara Jordan, Alto

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER Paul Means, Associate Pastor

*CAROL #113 “Angels We Have Heard On High” GLORIA
Angels, we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Shepherd’s, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7 Rosalie Bradford,
Director of Youth & Families

MUSICAL OFFERING “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” arr. Richard McKee
Hallelujah Ringers

CALL TO OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION The offering this evening will be
used to replenish Northwood’s much-used Helping Hands Fund. Someone is taken to a
nearby grocery store – we help them purchase milk, bread, and eggs. Someone else is pro-
vided a one night stay in a modest motel. Someone else has a small amount sent to Duke En-
ergy to keep their electricity on, etc. Thank you for
your generosity in the spirit of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:31-46.

CAROL #121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS
(stanzas 1,2,4)
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-20 Eli Jeffre & Drew Strelcheck

MUSICAL OFFERING “Toward the Light” by Jeanne Stephen
Jeanne & Larry Stephen

Refrain: We are His children, we are His light.
We are examples of His love, we are projections of His sight.
And we will live on earth together, until the time is right;
to take our place as He has promised, and go with Him toward the light.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 1:1-5

MESSAGE “Where There Can Be No Darkness”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

LIGHTING OF CANDLES #122 “Silent Night” STILLE NACHT
(Thank you for holding lighted candles completely upright and leaning unlighted candles
toward the lighted ones)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
‘Round yon Virgin Mother and Child! Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure Light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING HYMN #134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonder, wonders of his love.**

**Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.*

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.

TONIGHT’S OFFERING—HELPING HANDS FUND

All of the offerings received at the two Christmas Eve services will be used to replenish Northwood’s much-used Helping Hands Fund. Someone is taken to a nearby grocery store – we help them purchase milk, bread, and eggs. Someone else is provided a one night stay in a modest motel. Someone else has a small amount sent to Duke Energy to keep their electricity on, etc. Thank you for your generosity in the spirit of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:31-46.

NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE TEAM

2022 Giving/Pledge Envelopes are available in the hall by the kitchen. Boxes are not numbered or labeled; you may take any one. Please remember that when making “cash” contributions, include your first and last name on the envelope to be sure it is accurately recorded. In our continuing efforts to reduce the number of envelope sets that are wasted each year as more people choose online giving, we are again using perpetual envelopes. The individual envelopes in the box are marked for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Sunday of each month rather than being dated. If you wish to set up online giving, go to www.northwoodpc.org and click the “Giving” link to our secure online portal. Thank you for your faithful support.

One Worship Service, December 26th

There will be One Worship Service on Sunday, December 29th at 10:00 A.M. Pastor Paul will provide a sermon entitled “The Word Made Flesh” based on the passage from John 1:1-5;10-14.

Sunday, January 2nd we will resume with two services, 9:00 A.M. contemporary and 11:00 A.M. traditional.

Youth Programs

Youth will start a new season of activities in just a few weeks. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for programs with activities and choirs for all ages. For more information on youth activities, contact the church office or check out our website.

Church Office Holiday Closings

The office will be closed Monday & Tuesday, December 27th & 28th.

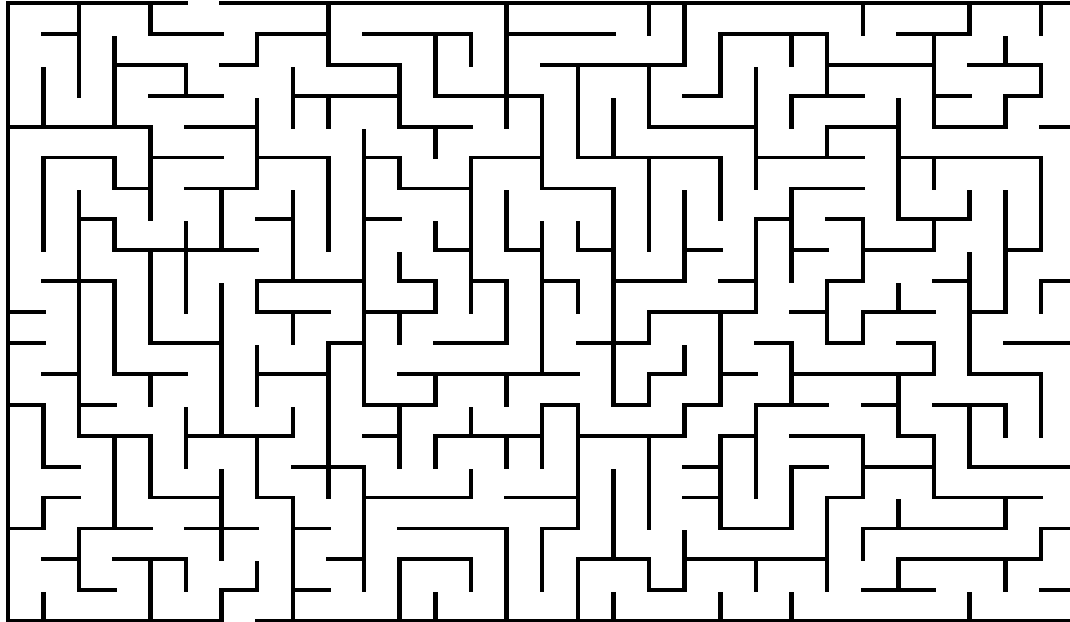
2021 Giving

2021 Contributions—Giving intended for 2021 must be received in the church office **by noon on December 31st** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2021**. Contributions which are processed electronically through your bank’s online bill pay or via our website must be initiated much earlier (probably no later than December 26) so that the transaction will fully process and qualify for deduction in 2021.



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

Just for Kids
Help Mary & Joseph Get to the Stable



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NPC Guest Wi-Fi Now live streaming our 9:30 & 11:00
services on northwoodpc.org.



LIVE STREAMING