

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
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
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

OPENING VOLUNTARY From Three Gentle Carols, “Away in a Manger” Phillip Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in the darkness of evening to celebrate the newborn Light.

People: With family and friends we worship and adore the Christ-child.

Leader: Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving, for a child, the Child, is born!

People: We gather to worship Him for He is the Light of the World!

Leader: Come, in this busy season our wait is finished! Let us worship God!

*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.

WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS Chris Curvin, 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)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE
Leslie & Ritchie Henley
The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

RESPONSE
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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MUELLER

THE PROMISE OF THE LIGHT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(together)*
**Open us, O God, to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind with the shepherds to Bethlehem
to see the glorious redemption you have brought to pass
through the Newborn lying in a manger. Amen.**

Chris Curvin

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38
Jackie Koski, Elder

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

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7
Paul Means

CAROL #145
(stanzas 1,3)
**What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**
**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

GREENSLEEVES

CALL TO OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION
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.

*CAROL #128
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
W ZLOBIE LEZY
**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!**
**Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!**

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-20
Stephanie Carson

ANTHEM
“Do You Hear What I Hear?”
Chancel Choir; Jarrett Mattson, Snare Drum
arr. Harry Simeone

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 1:1-5

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

THE RECEIVING OF THE LIGHT

LITANY OF DEDICATION *(responsive)*
Paul Means, Associate Pastor
Leader: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”
People: The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Leader: Jesus said, “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me will not remain in darkness.”
People: In His name I will light my candle and the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

PASSING OF THE LIGHT
As the house lights are dimmed, the light from the Christ Candle will be passed to the ushers who will move to light the candle of the first worshipper in each pew. Pass the light by tipping the unlighted candle to the upright lighted one.

CAROL #122

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

**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.**

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

*THE LORD’S PRAYER *(all singing)*

Albert Hay Malotte

**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 for ever. Amen.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING HYMN #134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

(stanzas 1,2,4)

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.*

GREETERS:

Cynthia & David Lawrence
Dan Hyden & Claudia Alwood

USHERS:

Polly Brown & Earle Lusk

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.

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.



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

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

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.

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 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4- 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.

CPR Training Opportunity

A CPR class will be held on Monday, January 3rd at 9:00am in room 18. This is for a two year certification and the cost is \$20. If you would like to attend the class, please contact Roxane Fineo at schooldirector@northwoodpc.org or 727-723-7679.