Northwood Presbyterian Church

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

Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24, 2022 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
Karlee Wright, Director of Children's Ministry
Roxane Fineo, Director of Schools
Stephanie Carson, Director of Music
Emily Cantin, Director of Communications
Mark Fettke, Bookkeeper
David Furr, Organist

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:30 PM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

"Jingle Bells"

arr. Lloyd Larson

Westminster Ringers

(Please sing these lyrics as the song is rung; Do not sing during the slow section) "Jesus Jingle Bells" from DLTK-Kids

To shepherds in the field, an angel came to say, That Jesus Christ is born, in Bethlehem today! The shepherd ran to town, they hurried down the street, And when they found the Son of God they worshipped at his feet.

Refrain: Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.

Oh, what fun to sing and praise our Savior born today-ay!

Jingle bells, jingle bells, listen while we say,

Jesus came into my heart and washed my sins away!

There came the wise men three, 'a-following a star, On camelback they rode, a'-travelling afar, The baby King was found, just like the Bible told, And bowing down they gave Him myrrh and frankincense and gold! *Refrain*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul Means, Associate 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)

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.

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

Todd, Kathleen, Jacob & Delaney Pope The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

RESPONSE

All singing: The Christ Candle's light that shines for us here tells out the good news that our God has come near! God came, a poor baby, in one time and place, to show all creation the wealth of God's grace. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

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THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38

MUSICAL OFFERING

arr. Lloyd Larson "O Come, Let Us Adore Him"

Westminster Youth Ringers

REGENT SQUARE (Angels from the Realms of Glory) and ADESTES FIDELES (O Come, All Ye Faithful)

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-20

VIDEO "He Came to Get Messy" Skit Guvs

CAROL #121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

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.

CHRISTMAS 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 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.

"Just a Little Christmas"

Sharon Kay Chatwell

SCENE 1

*CAROL #119

SCENE 4

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

The Birth of Jesus Foretold "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" **CAROL #123 CAROL** It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:

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

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King":

SCENE 2 The Birth of Jesus

CAROL #115 "Away In a Manger"

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care. and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

The Shepherds and the Angels SCENE 3

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!

Shepherds 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 Visit of the Wise Men

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 newborn King!"

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 1:1-5

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Toward the Light"

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.

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 you 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.

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.

One Worship Service, December 25th

There will be One Worship Service on Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 A.M. with the telling of Christmas stories and the singing of carols.

Sunday, January 1st 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, December 26th.

2022 Giving

2022 Contributions—Giving intended for $\overline{2022}$ must be received in the church office by noon on December 29th or postmarked no later than December 31, 2022. 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 2022.

Director: Babs Bailey

Narrators: Eli Jeffre, Drew Strelcheck, Karlee Wright

Mary: Delaney Pope Joseph: Dylan Cantin Angel: Ellis Cantin

Emperor Cesar Augustus: Henry Ellis King Herod: Aidan McDermott

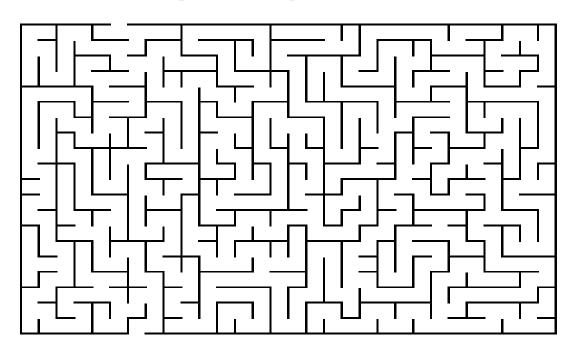
Wise Men: Carter Ellis, Henry Ellis & Aaron McDermott Shepherds: Claire Cantin, Jarrett Mattson, Jacob Pope Soldiers: Claire Cantin, Jarrett Mattson, Jacob Pope



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

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

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.