

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

7:00 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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Let There be Peace on Earth"

arr. Mark Hayes

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 #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)**

WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Chris Curvin, Pastor

*CAROL MEDLEY

#133 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

**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.**

#119 "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!"**

#123 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

CAROL

**It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

#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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE
Claudia & Jack Alwood

The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

RESPONSE

THE FIRST NOWELL

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, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

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THE PROMISE OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38

Paul Means

ANTHEM

“O Holy Night”
Chancel Choir: Michele White, solo

arr. Mary McDonald

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Welcome to Our World”
Barbara Jordan, solo

Chris Rice

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 #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 COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-20

Stephanie Carson

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!**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 3:9-12 (NRSV)
Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

“Emmanuel”

Chris Curvin, Pastor

THE 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 CAROL #134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH
(stanzas 1,4)
**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.**

**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 wonders, wonders of his love.**

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

GREETERS:
Joyce Curvin & Claudia Alwood

USHERS:
Jason, Jessica, Olivia & Ava Catlin

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.

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 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, December 26th.

2022 Giving

2022 Contributions—Giving intended for 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.

News from the Stewardship & Finance Team

2023 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.