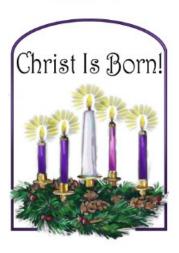
Northwood Presbyterían Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 24, 2015 11:00 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Senior Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
Troy Harris, Director of Youth & Young Adults
Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministries
Stephanie Carson, Director of Music
Thomas D. Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director
Tracy Donovan, Director of Communications & Membership Coordinator
Chris Hurst, Business Administrator
Linda O'Leary, Bookkeeper
Vicki Conolly, Director of Schools
Amy McDermott, Director of Nursery

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

OPENING VOLUNTARY

"Four Chorale Improvisations"

Paul Manz

In dulci jubilo
What Child Is This

Let All Together Praise Our God What Is This Lovely Fragrance

WORDS OF WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

(Please complete the bulletin insert, "FRIENDSHIP SHEET," and pass it toward the center aisle.)

*CAROL #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!

Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created; *(refrain)*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest. (refrain)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jackie and Jerry Koski

SUNG RESPONSE (from Hymn #113, please remain seated)
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GLORIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, you promised to send a Redeemer to your people. We confess that instead of trusting your promise, we have busied ourselves with activities. We give presents, but sometimes fail to be present with one another. We laugh and sing with friends, but fail to genuinely welcome the stranger in our midst. O Lord, forgive us by your grace, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Help us to grow in faith, be truly present with one another and welcome the stranger in our midst. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FIRST LESSON Micah 5:3-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

*HYMN #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.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.

SOLO "No Golden Carriage, No Bright Toy" Gilbert M. Martin
Barbara Jordan, Alto

THIRD LESSON Matthew 1:18-23

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

HYMN #114 "Away in a Manger" CRADLE SONG (please remain seated)

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to Bethlehem.

*HYMN #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

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 Godhead 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."

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace: hail, the Sun of Righteousness. Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

CALL TO OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION—The Helping Hands Fund

Tonight's Christmas Eve Offering is for the **Helping Hands Fund**. These gifts will help those in our community who come to our church office for help during the year. Know that as you help others, you do it for Christ the Lord.

MENDELSSOHN

"All Is Well" MUSICAL OFFERING Kirkpatrick/Smith

Liana Stephen, Soprano; Stephanie Carson, Alto arr. Lloyd Larson

FIFTH LESSON John 3:14-21

THE CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

E. Chris Curvin, Pastor

"Gazing Into the Heart of God"

SOLO Adolphe Adam "O Holy Night"

Liana Stephen, Soprano

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

"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 forever. Amen."

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION "Prelude on 'Silent Night, Holy Night" Neil Harmon

THE RECEIVING OF THE LIGHT

LITANY OF DEDICATION (responsive)

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." ALL: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me Leader:

will not remain in darkness."

In His name I will light my candle and the Lord my God will enlighten my ALL:

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 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.

THE SPREADING OF THE LIGHT

*BENEDICTION

THE OUIET RECESSION WITH CANDLES STILL BURNING

Please exit the sanctuary quietly with your candle burning, symbolizing the spreading of Christ's light into the world. We do ask that you return the candles to the receptacles at the doorways before you leave the building.

USHERS—Ed Puschmann, Ellen Stoup, Vicki and Curtis Krueger GREETERS-Jackie and Jerry Koski Childcare is not available for this service.

(Communion is served, using the intinction method, with people coming to the front of the Sanctuary. Please come in two lines down the center aisle and at the front chancel go to one of the stations, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your pew using the side aisles.)

THE PASTORS, CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

of Northwood Presbyterian Church wish you a very joyous Christmas and New Year.