

Northwood Presbyterian Church

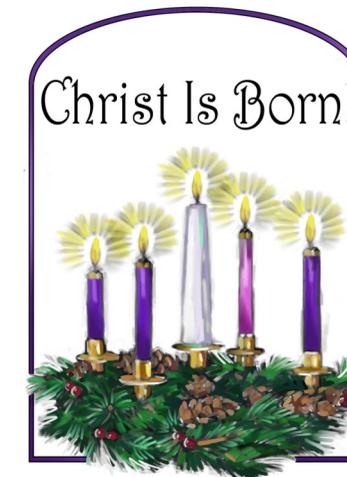
Presbyterian Church (USA)

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761

Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24, 2017

7:30 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
Vanessa Celotto, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
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
Angie Surowiec, Acting Director of Schools
Jessica Jones, Director of Nursery

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Infant Care is available in our nursery tonight for the 7:30 service)

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Noel Polonais” Alexander Guilmant
(Variations on the Polish Carol “Infant Holy”)

“Drummer Boy/Pat-a-Pan” arr. Diane Bish

CHRISTMAS EVE CALL TO WORSHIP

CAROL #140 “Once in Royal David’s City” IRBY
stanza 1: Solo

**all stand as the organ begins and sing with the choir
stanzas 2, 3, 4: all singing

2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS Chris Curvin, Pastor

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Dallas, Pam, Robert & Heather Wood

The reader offers words about the light of Christ and reads from Isaiah 9.

One: And so we offer our song of praise:

All Singing: **Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

***CAROL #133** “O Come All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELIS

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)*

Refrain: 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. *(refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *(refrain)*

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.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38 Justine Ruisz, Director of Children’s Ministries

SOLO “Do You Hear What I Hear?” Regney/Shayne
Cambia Woodford

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7 Vanessa Celotto, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

ANTHEM “Carols of the British Isles” Mark Hayes
from *International Carol Suites*
“What Child Is This,” “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen,” “Deck the Hall”
Chancel Choir with Liana Stephen, Soprano

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS-The Helping Hands Fund

*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.*

MUSICAL OFFERING “Lo, How a Rose/The Rose” arr. Craig Hella Johnson
Westminster Youth Choir
Lindsey Peterson, Soloist

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-20 Stephanie Carson, Director of Music

***CAROL #119** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born 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 new-born 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 new-born 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 new-born King.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 3:16-17

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE The Promises of His Coming #4 Chris Curvin, Pastor
"Love"

SOLO "A Cradle Carol" Dan Forrest
Cindy Huffman, Alto

THE RECEIVING OF THE LIGHT

THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS 5:8-10, 14 Paul Means, Associate Pastor

LITANY OF DEDICATION *(responsive)*

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

ALL: **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."

ALL: **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
(please remain seated)

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

*CAROL #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.

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, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING VOLUNTARY** “Organ Flourish on ‘Joy to the World’” Michael G. Dell

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

***GREETERS:**

Cookie Roffey & Polly Brown

***USHERS:**

Todd & Kathleen Pope, Todd & Kaleb Adkisson



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

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

Worship with us Sunday, December 31st

We will resume our three services of 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Pastor Paul will provide a sermon entitled “When the Celebration of Christmas Fades in the Face of Life’s Challenges” based on the passage from Matthew 2:13-23.

Children & Youth Programs

Children & 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 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.
- The office will close on Friday, December 29th, and will remain closed Monday, January 1st for New Year’s Day. We will re-open Tuesday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m.

2017 Giving

2017 Contributions—Giving intended for 2017 must be received in the church office **by noon on December 31st** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2017**. 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 2017.

2018 Pledge Prepayment

If you wish to prepay your 2018 pledge in anticipation of tax law changes, you may do so. Simply make your gift no later than December 31st and clearly note that it is a 2018 prepayment.

News from the Stewardship & Finance Team

2018 Giving/Pledge Envelopes will be available Sunday, December 31st 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.