

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761

www.northwoodpc.org

Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24, 2018

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 Davis, Director of Children's Ministries & Membership Coordinator

Stephanie Carson, Director of Music

Thomas D. Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

Emily Cantin, Director of Communications

Chris Hurst, Business Administrator

Linda O'Leary, Bookkeeper

Michelle Episcopo, Director of Schools

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

"Noel Polonais"

Alexander Guilmant

(based on the carol at #128)

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

arr. Ed Hogan

Heather Wood, Clarinet

OPENING PRAYER

INTROIT

"A Christmas Antiphonal"

Hal H. Hopson

Carol Zaffiri, Soprano

Lucas Johnston and Mitchell Johnston, Handbells

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL #133 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELIS

*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

Tracey, Kathryn, James and Sarah Birch

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

*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 morning new

Saw 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 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

Jackie Koski

SOLO

“O Holy Night”
Jim Howes, Soloist

Adolphe Adam

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7

Ginny Zimmer

ANTHEM

“How Great Our Joy”
Carol Zaffiri, Soloist

arr. John Rutter

*While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*There shall a Child lie in a stall, this child who shall redeem us all.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

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

“Tidings of Comfort and Joy”
Heather Wood, Clarinet

arr. Lloyd Larson

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-14

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 LUKE 2:15-20

Chris Curvin, Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE “The Secret to Pondering”

Chris Curvin, Pastor

SOLO

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Cindy Huffman, Soloist

Gustav Holst

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.”

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”
(*please remain seated*)

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.

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** “Joy to the World” David Cherwien

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

***GREETERS:**

Joyce Curvin & Mary Duffey

***USHERS:**

Todd & Jacob Pope
Ellen Stoup & Marie Ziegler

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.*

Worship with us Sunday, December 30th

We will resume our three services of 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Pastor Paul will provide a sermon entitled “An Urgent Search” based on the passage from Luke 2: 41-52.

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 Tuesday, December 25th and Wednesday, December 26th.
- The office will be closed Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st for New Year’s Day. We will re-open Wednesday, January 2 at 8:30a.m.

2018 Giving

2018 Contributions—Giving intended for 2018 must be received in the church office **by noon on December 28th** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2018**. 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 2018.

News from the Stewardship & Finance Team

2019 Giving/Pledge Envelopes will be available Sunday, December 30 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.



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NPC Guest Wi-Fi Now live streaming our 9:30 & 11:00
services on northwoodpc.org.



