



Order for the Public Worship of God  
December 15, 2019  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.  
Please silence electronic devices.)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Chris Curvin, Pastor  
Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!  
People: **And we are filled with joy!**  
Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing.  
People: **Our tears into songs of joy!**  
Leader: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,  
People: **and remain in us forever.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Hodie Christus Natus Est” Mark Hayes  
A Carol Fantasia  
with *Angels We Have Heard on High,*  
*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
Michele White, Soloist  
(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

Please stand when directed to sing:

1. **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 hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**
2. choir only
3. **Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteous-  
ness! 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 all from earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Lighting the Candle  
(8:15) Claudia & Jack Alwood  
(11:00) Eric, Marcy, Amy & Kurt Kemerer  
*The reader offers words about the candle of joy.*

All Singing: CAROL  
**True freedom comes when we commit our lives to God’s intent.  
When we are oaks of righteousness, prepared and confident.  
When wrong no longer reigns within, and selfish pride is gone,  
We reap the joy of lives in tune with God’s approaching dawn.**  
—from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler  
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CALL TO OFFERING/PRAYER

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Creator of the Stars of Night” arr. David M. Cherwien  
*Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people’s everlasting light.  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.*

BIDDING PRAYER

“COME TO THE MANGER”

by Mark Hayes  
Janet Winder, Reader

Overture

I. The Nativity of Jesus

“Away in a Manger”

“Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella”  
Rachelle Cox, Soprano

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
Dennis Rasmussen, Tenor

“The First Noel”

II. The Visit of the Wise Men

“What Can I Give Him”  
Ellis Cantin, Soloist

“The Coventry Carol”  
Cindy Huffman, Alto; Dick Casper, Baritone  
Duet: Barbara Jordan, Alto; Robert Wood, Tenor

III. Christmas in the Manger

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

“He Is Born”

“Mary Had a Baby”  
Carol Zaffiri, Soprano

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN #134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

\*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Creator of the Stars of Night” David M. Cherwien  
*To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally.*

(You are invited to reflect on the worship service during the closing voluntary. If you must  
leave before the end of the service, please respect those who remain and leave quietly.)

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

Stephanie Carson, Music Director  
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

COUNTDOWN

WELCOME

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

*Experiencing God Sunday School Class*

PRAISE CAROLS

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”  
“The First Noel”

MEET & GREET

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

VIDEO

“Awkward Invites”  
Skit Guys

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG

“A Savior Is Born Today” by Larry Stephen  
Larry & Jeanne Stephen

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING  
OFFERTORY

“A Strange Way to Save the World”

SCRIPTURE  
Matthew 25:1–13

MESSAGE  
“Preparing for Christmas”  
Chris Curvin, Pastor

SONG OF DEDICATION  
“Christmas Day”

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

**Music Notes:**

Extraordinary composer Mark Hayes will be here at Northwood on February 29-March 1 for our third Composer Weekend. Today the Chancel, Soloists and Instruments present two of Hayes’ Christmas works.

We begin immediately with his “A Carol Fantasia” titled “Hodie Christus Natus Est” (Today Christ Is Born). In three sections, the dance-like parts one and three frame a middle section more reflective and contemplative based on the 1863 Longfellow poem “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” Still mourning the death of his wife in a tragic fire two years earlier, Longfellow had recently learned that his son had enlisted in the Union army without his consent. This poem reflects his despair, upon hearing the Christmas bells, that “hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will toward men.” The third section sees the return of the joyful music heard at the opening and ends triumphantly with “Gloria in excelsis Deo!”

The longer work “Come to the Manger” was published in 2001 and begins with a visit to the humble manger in Bethlehem visited by the shepherds. In the second section we celebrate the gift of God’s Son with the magi and in a final carol medley, builds to a joyous conclusion as the people of God shout the glad news throughout the world that Jesus Christ is born!

Our service today includes what is known as a ‘bidding prayer.’ This particular prayer originates from a 1918 Christmas Eve service at Kings’ College Chapel, University of Cambridge in England. A bidding prayer is simply a ‘prayer of the faithful’ or a ‘prayer of intercession’ to God for the church, for those in positions of authority, for the salvation of the world, those in need, and might include thankfulness for

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO...**

**Sunday, December 15:** Christy Rickrode, Stephanie Rickrode  
**Monday, December 16:** Bailey Shields, Cheryl Roberts  
**Tuesday, December 17:** Melanie Brown, Don Stevens, Chris Curvin  
**Wednesday, December 18:** Nicole Makal, Kelsey Propst, Jack Alwood  
**Thursday, December 19:** Stephen Williams, Jim Lumia  
**Friday, December 20:** Jaqueline Graziano, Sandy Seckel, Polly Brown, Jere Gunderman, Karen Gipson



*If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven’t seen them in*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by*



**Friends of Northwood**



Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the “2019-2020 Flower Reservation Chart” on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Thank you to those providing flowers each week In Honor/In Memory of someone

**FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY**

**GREETERS:**

(8:15) Jesse Loy & Ellen Stoup  
(11:00) Sharon Card & Ed Puschmann

**USHERS:**

(8:15) Linda Andreassen & Earle Lusk  
Don & Nancy Stevens  
(9:30) Marie Ziegler & Kim Peterson  
(11:00) Kim Blackmore & Roger Snay  
Larry & Sandy Ingram

**VAN DRIVER:** Cynthia Lawrence

Ushers & Greeters



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**8:15 & 11:00 AM**

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**3 Yr. Olds-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** (19/20 School Year)

Children remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School worship following the anthem.

**9:30 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**3 Yr. Olds-1st Grade, Room 3**

Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour with Kelly Tighe & Joyce Curvin.

**2nd-5th Grade, Room 8**

Students will start in the sanctuary and then move to room 8 with Justine Davis & Jane Winne.

**11:00 AM MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Middle & High Schoolers (6th-12th graders) are meeting this week for Sunday School. All youth are welcome to worship together in the back-left-side of the Sanctuary at the 9:30 Ignite service. After the service, youth will meet in the City at 10:45am for Sunday School where we will be studying our series, Amplify.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**9:30 A.M. TCI (Today’s Christian Issues) Rooms 9-11**

TCI -- Today's Christian Issues -- is an adult class that gathers weekly to explore how our Christian values inform our daily life. This week Jim Vander Slik will explore the Holy Spirit and gifts of the Spirit. **The class will be suspended for the last two Sundays of December, resuming again on January 5th** when Fred Heider will lead a session based on The Wired Word.

**11:00 A.M. Experiencing God Class Room 15,** led by Vicki Krueger

The Experiencing God class offers you a place to connect with other believers in the study of God's word and how it applies to our daily lives. Our goals: to grow in our understanding of the Bible, as Jesus' own group of disciples did; to meet the needs of others in our group in prayer and ministry; to become equipped for evangelism; and to let the living Word of God dwell richly in us.

**11:30 A.M. Sunday Morning Bible Study** This Bible study meets at 11:30am on Sunday mornings in room 8 of the Christian Education Building. We are studying the minor prophets from the Old Testament. We are looking at God’s message of hope and reconciliation to God’s people while they were in exile. The book we are using is part of the *Immersion Bible Studies*— *Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, and Jonah* by Bruce Epperly. If you have any questions or would like to purchase a book for the study, please contact Cindy Huffman 727-409-8727 or lucindy1@aol.com. This is a discussion class and is approximately one hour in length. All are welcome! Come join us!

**10:45A.M. “Defenders”**

The “Defenders” meets in rooms 5 & 7 at 10:45am. This class is taught by Michael Jahosky, who is a Humanities Professor at St. Petersburg College. **Today’s class is the sixth and final session** of a 6-week study *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright. For more information or questions, you may contact Spencer Briggs at spencer.briggs1@gmail.com.

**Welcome To  
Northwood Presbyterian  
Church**

*A Stephen Ministry Church  
Organized February 19, 1978*

**December 15, 2019**



THIRD SUNDAY OF

*Advent*

**Ministers: All Members of the Church**

E. Chris Curvin, Pastor  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**

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