

Music Notes:

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent but you'll find a bit of the Christmas celebration has spilled over to today since we are so close to Christmas Eve. For many of us the days leading up to Christmas is the favorite time of year. Music of the season transports us to that first Christmas. Carols that describe snow give us a chill. The story of a shunned reindeer makes us feel empathy. Because all these songs—especially those hymns and carols we sing here—often bring back wonderful memories and are like presents that we get to unwrap again every year. There is ample opportunity today to sing in the service. Try taking a fresh look at the words and perhaps create a new memory.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO...

Sunday, December 22: Steve Rickrode, Jonathan Luther

Monday, December 23: Jan Botsford, Greg Brinkman

Wednesday, December 25: Jane Urban, Bill Bitner, Bobbi Hunt,
Patty Martin

Thursday, December 26: Jim Warren

Friday, December 27: Barbara Stone, Sally Uhler, Shannon O'Leary

Saturday, December 28: Charlotte McQuown

If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven't seen them in church recently, give them a call!



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 or an anniversary/birthday!

FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY

GREETERS:

Pam Means & Ellen Stoup

USHERS:

Jerry & Jackie Koski

Wayne & Nancy Rodewald

Ushers & Greeters



VAN DRIVER: Curtis Krueger

ACOLYTE: Ellis Cantin

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

10:00 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-2nd 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.

11:00 AM MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Middle & High School youth (6th-12th graders) are NOT meeting this week for Sunday School.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

TCI will not meet December 22nd or 29th. We'll resume on January 5, 2020 with new discussions of contemporary issues and their effects on our faith journey. And, as always, we'll have coffee and cookies to enrich the conversations.

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

Experiencing God will not meet December 22nd or 29th. We will resume January 5th.

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 will not meet December 22nd or 29th. We will resume January 5th.

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 lu-cindy1@aol.com. This is a discussion class and is approximately one hour in length. All are welcome! Come join us!

Welcome To Northwood Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Church

December 22, 2019



FOURTH 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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Order for the Public Worship of God
December 22, 2019
4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM Worship Service

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

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)* Paul Means, Associate Pastor
Leader: We gather in preparation,
People: for good news is about to be proclaimed.
Leader: We gather in expectation,
People: for joy is about to explode in our midst.
Leader: With preparation and in expectation, let us worship God!

OPENING VOLUNARY
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” arr. Ron Mallory
Hallelujah Ringers

(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION Stephanie Carson, Annual Garage Sale

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)

*CAROL MEDLEY
#143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” REGENT SQUARE
stanzas 1,2
#87 “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” GENEVAN 42
#117 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” WINCHESTER OLD
Emily Cantin, Trumpet
stanza 1-all
stanza 2-all
stanza 4-choir only
stanza 6-all

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE
Lighting the Candle—Peter, Susan & Laura Gajentan
The reader offers words about the candle of love.

All Singing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*
**While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever,
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.
Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee,
for not reading your Word,
for not searching our hearts,
for not facing our sins.
Grant that when Christmas morning comes to us,
we may have a fresh resolve to live to the praise of Christ’s glory.
Amen.**

A TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #108 *(stanza 1)* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
**Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

OUR MINISTRY WITH THE CHILDREN
*(Children ages 3yrs – 2nd grade are welcome to remain in service with their
parents or join us in room 3 for Children’s Church.)*

CALL TO OFFERING

ANTHEM “The Little Drummer Boy” arr. Harry Simeone
Jarrett Mattson, Snare Drum

*DOXOLOGY THE FIRST NOEL
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM “Sing Noel!” Alfred E. Sturgis
Westminster Youth Choir
*Sing Noel, Noel, Gloria in excelsis! Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born!
The first Noel the angels did say to the shepherds in the fields where they lay.
Gloria, Christ the Savior is born! Sing Noel!*

WE GROW IN THE WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 1:18-25 NRSV *(page 783)*
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE “Stories for the Heart” Pastor Chris Curvin
Nancy Turner
Babs Bailey

WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
**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 debt-
ors. 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 THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF
THE CUP; THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP
*(Serving is by intinction. Come by the center aisle to one of the four stations., take a
piece of bread and dip it lightly in the cup. Return to your seat by the side aisles.)*

ANTHEM “Be Ye Joyful, Earth and Sky” Bohemian folk tune

CAROLS DURING COMMUNION *(first stanzas)*
(please join in singing as you are able)
HYMN #88 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

HYMN #115 “Away in a Manger” MUELLER
**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.**

HYMN #145 “What Child Is This” GREENSLEEVES
**What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

HYMN #147 “The First Nowell” THE FIRST NOWELL
**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.**

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN #128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” W ŻLOBIE LEŻY

*BENEDICTION

SUNG BLESSING “Blessing” Lee Dengler
(please be seated)
*Walk in the love of Jesus. God’s promised Son will come to earth.
Watch for the Bright and Morning Star. Behold redemption’s birth.
Walk in the love of Jesus, giving you strength to travel on,
Guiding your feet upon the path that leads you to the dawn.
Walk on in love! Amen.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY
“Rondo on NOEL NOUVELET” Michael Burkhardt

*(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 and Associate Music Director