

# Northwood Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761

www.northwoodpc.org

## Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

7:30 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor

The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor

Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Justine Davis, Director of Schools & Director of Children's Ministries

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Toccata on 'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen'" Jason D. Payne  
"Angels from the Realms of Glory" arr. Ed Hogan  
"Noel Suisse" Louis-Claude Daquin  
"What Child Is This?" arr. Ed Hogan  
Heather Wood, Clarinet

OPENING PRAYER O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\*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  
Spencer, Ann, Eric & Gemma Briggs  
The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

\*CAROL #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

QUARTET "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" Molly Ijames  
Heather Wood, Lindsey Peterson, Robert Wood, David Hamilton, Jr.

## 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 Davis, Director of Schools & Children's Ministry

DUET "Mary Did You Know" Lowry/Green  
Barbara Jordan & Larry Stephen

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7 Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth & Families

ANTHEM "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" arr. Mark Hayes  
Rachelle Cox, Soloist

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 "Christmas Night" arr. Dave Ritter  
Melanie Schulz, Violin

### 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 Chris Curvin, Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE "Shaped by Story" Chris Curvin, Pastor

### THE RECEIVING OF THE LIGHT

LITANY OF DEDICATION (*responsive*) Paul Means, Associate Pastor

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" 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

“Joy to the World”

arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

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

GREETERS:

Nancy Johnson

USHERS:

Claudia Alwood & Carol Rathmell

Ellen Stoup & Bunny Bitner

**One Worship Service, December 29th**

There will be One Worship Service on Sunday, December 29th at 10:00 A.M. Pastor Paul will provide a sermon entitled “Eyes That See the Salvation of God” based on the passage from Luke 2: 22-40.

**Sunday, January 5th** we will resume with all three services, 8:15A.M. & 11:00 A.M. traditional and 9:30 A.M. contemporary.

**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.*

### **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 Wednesday-Friday, December 25th-27th.
- The office will be closed Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day. We will re-open Thursday, January 2 at 8:30a.m.

### **2019 Giving**

**2019 Contributions**—Giving intended for 2019 must be received in the church office **by noon on December 31st** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2019**. 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 2019.

### **News from the Stewardship & Finance Team**

**2020 Giving/Pledge Envelopes** are available 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](http://www.northwoodpc.org) and click the "Giving" link to our secure online portal. Thank you for your faithful support.

### **CPR Training Opportunity**

A CPR class will be held on Friday, January 6th at 10:30am in room 15. This is for a two year certification and the cost is \$20. If you would like to attend the class, please contact Justine Davis at [childrensministry@northwoodpc.org](mailto:childrensministry@northwoodpc.org) or 727-641-8140.