Northwood Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) 2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761 www.northwoodpc.org

Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24, 2023 4:30 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
Stephanie Carson, Director of Traditional Music
Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Music
David Furr, Organist
Emily Cantin, Director of Communications
Roxane Fineo, Director of Schools
Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Jennifer McManus, Director of Children's Ministry
Mark Fettke, Bookkeeper

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Saturday, December 24, 2023

4:30 PM

PRELUDE Voices in Praise

VIDEO "Jesus Was Born"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

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

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Lumia Family

The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

MEET AND GREET

PRAISE SONG

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

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: 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 heav'n above. Glory to God all, glory in the highest. *Refrain*

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels. Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING Paul Means

One Holy Night

A collection of lessons and carols

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Isaiah 9:2.6

CAROL

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old. From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled. And still their heav'nly music floats. O'er all the weary world.

Refrain: Peace on earth goodwill to men, from heaven's gracious King.

And with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long. Beneath the blessed angel strain have rolled, two thousand years of wrong. Refrain

O hush the noise you men of strife, and hear the angels sing, yeah. Refrain

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels' song. To hear the angels' song.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

Luke 1:26-38

CAROL

"Mary Did You Know?"

Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy would give sight to the blind man? Mary did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? And when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God. Oh Mary did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again. The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb And the sleeping Child vou're holding is the great I Am.

SCRIPTURE READING #3 Luke 2:1-7

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above. While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King and peace to men on earth.

O Holy child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tiding tells. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

SCRIPTURE READING #4

Luke 2:8-20

CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Angels we have hears on high, sweetly, sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brief delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Glory be to God on high and peace on earth forever. Glory be to God above and peace on earth and in all hearts, amen.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song. Refrain

May there be peace, may there be life. Mercy, justice for all the world. May there be truth, may there be love. And peace on earth and in all our hearts.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING #5

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar. Field and fountain moor and mountain, following yonder star. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again. King forever ceasing never over us all to reign.

Refrain: O star of wonder star of night, star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh. Prayer and praising all men raising worship Him God on high.

Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom. Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying sealed in the stone cold tomb. Refrain

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice. Alleluia alleluia, peals through the earth and skies. Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING #6

John 1:1-14

CAROL "Peace on Earth/The Little Drummer Boy"

LIGHTING OF CANDLES "Silent Night"

(Thank you for holding lighted candles completely upright and leaning unlighted candles toward the lighted ones)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'Round you 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.

*BENEDICTION

Sunday, December 31st we will resume with two services, 9:00 A.M. contemporary and 11:00 A.M. traditional.

Youth Programs

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.

2023 Giving

2023 Contributions—Giving intended for 2023 must be received in the church office by noon on December 29th or postmarked no later than December 31, 2023. 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 2023.

Greeters: Cynthia & David Lawrence

Ushers: Jill Manning & Georgia Rounding

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.

TONIGHT'S OFFERING—HELPING HANDS FUND

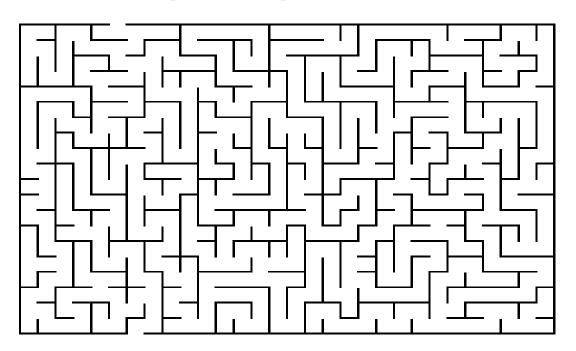
All of the offerings received at the two Christmas Eve services will be used to replenish Northwood's much-used Helping Hands Fund. These funds are used to purchase food to replenish our food pantry and to help someone in need with groceries at a near-by store – to help purchase milk, bread, or eggs. Thank you for your generosity in the spirit of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:31-46.



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

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

Just for Kids
Help Mary & Joseph Get to the Stable









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

