

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
7:00 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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Greensleeves" arr. Richard Purvis

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in the darkness of evening to celebrate the newborn Light.

People: With family and friends we worship and adore the Christ-child.

Leader: Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving, for a child, the Child, is born!

People: We gather to worship Him for He is the Light of the World!

Leader: Come, in this busy season our wait is finished! Let us worship God!

*CAROL #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA
**Angels, we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Shepherd's, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)**

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

WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS Chris Curvin, Pastor

*CAROL MEDLEY

#140 "Once In Royal David's City" IRBY
**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.**

#121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS
**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.**

#112 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" SUSSEX CAROL
**On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.**

#123

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”CAROL

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE
Claudia Mitcham & Barbara Jordan

The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

RESPONSEDIX

All singing: Light a candle bright and tall for the Christ we greet this night.
Christ will come, our all in all, by our gentle candlelight:
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.
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THE PROMISE OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 1:1-14Paul Means, Associate Pastor

ANTHEMMary McDonald

“Darkness Into Light”
Claudia Mitcham and Michele White, soloists

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7

CAROL MEDLEY

#115MUELLER

“Away In a Manger”
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

#128W ZLOBIE LEZY

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
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!

#146TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”
Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

CALL TO OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MUSICAL OFFERINGarr. Tom Fettke

“O Holy Night”
Stephanie Carson, Barbara Jordan & Michele White, Trio

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 1:18-25

ANTHEMMary McDonald

“Sing We All Noel”
Randy Ball, Soloist

SCRIPTURE READINGLuke 2:8-20 (NRSV)

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGEWhat Child Is This That Changed the World
#3 “There Is Something About Christmas”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

THE 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 #122STILLE NACHT

“Silent Night”
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

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING CAROL #134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH
(stanzas 1,4)
**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.**

**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.**

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



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

GREETERS:
Carol Rathmell & Claudia Alwood

USHERS:
Marie Ziegler & Cindy Gamble

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

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 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.

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.

News from the Stewardship & Finance Team

2024 Giving/Pledge Envelopes are available in the hall by the library. 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.