

Welcome To  
Northwood Presbyterian  
Church

*A Stephen Ministry Church  
Organized February 19, 1978*

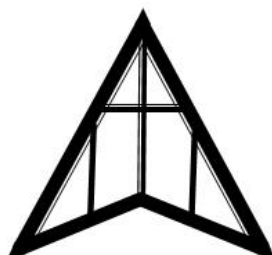
December 14, 2025



*Ministers: All Members of the Church*

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

Northwood Presbyterian Church  
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761  
(727) 796-8090  
www.northwoodpc.org



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Order for the Public Worship of God  
December 14, 2025  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
10:00 AM Worship Service/Cantata

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNARY

"Echo Noel"

Claude D'Aquin

*(Let us quietly prepare our hearts for worship during the opening voluntary)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Curvin, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord;

**People: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

**People: God sends good news to the oppressed.**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord; again, rejoice!

**People: Be gentle to all: the Lord is near.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

\*HYMN #133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY;

Lighting the Candle—Art & Gretchen Worth

*The reader offers words about the candle of joy.*

RESPONSE

**All singing: Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Hope of all the earth thou art.  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.**

*("Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Glory to God, #82)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**God of birth, God of Joy, God of life, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the life you set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CHRISTMAS RESPONSE

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.**

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 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

A Celebration of the Gif of Jesus  
(A Collection of anthems by various composers)  
Narration written by Rachelle Cox  
Narration read by Earle Lusk

Christmastime Michael W. Smith/arr. Joseph M. Martin

**Refrain:** Ring Christmas bells, ring them loud with a message bringing peace on the earth, tidings of good cheer!  
Come, carolers, come and join with the angels singing, “Joy to the world!” Christmas time is here again!

Oh, children, gather around and listen. You’ll hear the sound of angels filling the sky,  
telling everyone Christmastime is here! **Refrain**

Oh, loved ones close to our hearts and strangers in lands afar, together sharing the joy. Emmanuel.  
Go tell the world! He has come to dwell. The time is near!  
With one voice, let the world rejoice!

Ding dong, merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing.  
Ring Christmas bells, Christmas bells, hear them ringing. Ding dong, verily the sky is filled with angels singing.  
Come, hear them singing. Gloria, Gloria, Gloria. Hosanna in excelsis. **Refrain**

Oh, children, gather around and listen. You’ll hear the sound of angels filling the sky.  
It’s Christmas, Christmastime again!  
Ring Christmas bells, ring the bells, hear them ringing! Rejoice, it’s Christmastime!

Sussex Carol arr. Elaine Hagenberg  
Soloists, Randy Ball, Michele White

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring; (repeat)  
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King’s birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad; (repeat)  
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place. (repeat)  
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: (repeat)  
Then out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night. (repeat)  
“Glory to God in highest heaven, now and forevermore,” Amen!

Sing We Now of Christmas arr. Howard Helvey  
Solo, Dennis Rasmussen

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel. Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell.  
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest. Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the Child so blest.”  
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

In Bethlehem they found him: Joseph and Mary mild, seated by the manger, watching the holy Child.  
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

From the eastern country came the kings afar, bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.  
Glory to God, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price; there was never a stable so like paradise.  
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel. Sing we all noel!

Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song) Chris Eaton & Amy Grant/arr. Lloyd Larson  
Solo, Barbara Jordan

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside  
and I wonder what I’ve done. Holy Father, you have come and chosen me now to carry your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer; I am frightened by the load I bear.  
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone? Be with me now, be with me now.

**Refrain:** Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness, for you are holy, Breath of Heaven.

Do you wonder as you watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?  
But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan. Help me be strong, help me be, help me. **Refrain**

Ukrainian Bell Carol arr. Mark Hayes  
From collection “International Carol Suites/Carols of Eastern Europe”

Hark! Hear the song, joyful and strong, music so fair, filling the air.  
Radiant the sound, heard all around, shattering the night, bringing the light.  
Seraphs sing, joy bells ring, news of a birth throughout the earth.  
Promise fulfilled, heaven revealed. All is made right this Christmas night.  
Hope is reborn this Christmas morn. Spread the good news, Jesus is born.

Suddenly angel voices are singing songs of goodwill and peace to the earth.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Hear angels sing on Christmas night, tidings they bring: peace love, and light.

In the Bleak Midwinter arr. by Mark Hayes  
Duet, Darrell Cooper, Rachelle Cox

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow  
on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain.  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed, the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and arch angels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but His mother only in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him; give my heart.

Jesus, O What A Wonderful Child arr. by Mark Hayes  
Solo, Lea Kirdatt

**Refrain:** Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful Child; Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild:  
New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won’t you listen to the angels sing,  
“Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.”

He was herald by the angels, born in a lowly manger.  
The virgin Mary was His mother, and Joseph was His earthly father.  
Oh, three wise men came from afar, they were guided by a shining star,  
to see King Jesus where He lay in a manger filled with hay. **Refrain**

Oh, what a wonderful Child!

**Medley**  
**Angels From the Realms of Glory**  
arr. Mack Wilberg  
Chancel Choir Women

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the infant light. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**Angels From the Realms of Glory**  
arr. Marshall McDonald  
Solos, Mike Wood, Dan Jeffre

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight over all the earth;  
Ye, who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**Angels We Have Heard on High**  
arr. Mack Wilberg

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
See him in the manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL REPRISE**                      “Angels We Have Heard On High”

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

*Please ensure all electronic devices are on silent during the service.*

Stephanie Carson, Music Director; David Furr, Organist

<u><b>Choir</b></u>				
<u><b>Soprano</b></u>	<u><b>Alto</b></u>	<u><b>Tenor</b></u>	<u><b>Bass</b></u>	
April Carter	Babs Bailey	Randy Ball	Steve Anderson	
Elaine Cornillaud	Melanie Brown	Darrell Cooper	Mike Elza	
Rachelle Cox	Claudia Ferguson	Marti Huff	Jim Ferguson	
Susan Curry	Susan Gajentan	Dan Jeffre	Peter Gajentan	
Rollie Haugen	Barbara Jordan	Steve Lang	David Hamilton Jr	
Nadia Hennemen	Aimee McDermott	Jill Loomis	Nick Hodson	
Marion Homer	Kaaren Nesmith	Mike Wood	Jarrett Mattson	
Lea Kirdatt	Jeanne Stephen		Jim Mertz	
Debbie Lang	Emily Sutphin		Dennis Rasmussen	
Jessie Lusk			John Sutphin	
Mary McCauley				
Vickie Mills				
Gail Rothrock				
Betty Spoerl				
Michele White				

**Large Print Bibles, Hymnals & Bulletins**

Large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins are available. If you need assistance locating one of these, please ask an Usher.

**Hearing Devices**

Hearing devices are available for use during the worship services. Please ask an usher if you are in need.

**Your Giving Matters**

For in-person worship, the offering plates will not be passed, however, offering boxes are located in the narthex. For those worshipping online, your giving matters too. Your continued faithfulness to the mission and ministry of Northwood through your giving is critical as the church’s expenses do not stop. Please commit to maintain your regular schedule of giving by mailing your gift or using one of the online platforms below for giving electronically:

1. Text NPCHURCH to 73256 and follow the prompts.
2. Visit [www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org) and click on the giving tab.
3. Click “Give” under the *ChurchLife app* menu options

**Pledge Cards for 2026**

Thank you for your faithful answer to God’s call to give freely and wholeheartedly to support the ministry and mission of Northwood Presbyterian Church in 2025. If you have already submitted a pledge card for the coming year, thank you! If you have yet to do so, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and the church office. Thank you again for all God has done in and through your giving back to Him at Northwood Presbyterian in 2025. We look forward to the work God is preparing for us in 2026.

**Church Staff Contact Information**

*Staff members are available to answer any questions you might have regarding church related programs through our office phone system. Provided below are the phone extension numbers for most of our staff who are full-time. If you don’t see a phone extension we provide an email contact for you. If you call the church office when the lines are busy or the office is closed, you will be prompted to use the Dial By Name Directory **OR** the staff member’s extension number to leave a message. The church number is still 796-8090.*

Chris Curvin, Pastor/Head of Staff x2007  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor x2006  
Stephanie Carson, Director of Traditional Music x2009  
Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Music, [taryn@northwoodpc.org](mailto:taryn@northwoodpc.org)  
David Furr, Organist, [dmfurr35679@gmail.com](mailto:dmfurr35679@gmail.com)  
Emily Cantin, Director of Communications x2001  
Mark Fettke, Bookkeeper x2005  
Roxane Fineo, Director of Schools x2010  
Dylan Cantin, Assistant Youth Director x2008  
Aidan Murray, Facilities/Maintenance x2002  
Drew Milano, Sound/Tech, [worship@northwoodpc.org](mailto:worship@northwoodpc.org)