

Large Print  
Bulletin  
&  
Announcements

**Welcome To**  
**Northwood Presbyterian**  
**Church**

*A Stephen Ministry Church*  
*Organized February 19, 1978*

**December 3, 2023**  
**11:00am**



***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](http://www.northwoodpc.org)

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**Order for the Public Worship of God**  
**December 3, 2023**  
**1st Sunday in Advent**  
**11:00 AM Worship Service**

**WE COME TO WORSHIP**

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Brahms

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Paul Means, Associate Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

Leader: Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

**People: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.**

Leader: Heaven and earth will pass away,

**People: but the word of God endures forever.**

Leader: The day of the Lord is surely coming;

**People: the promise of God will surely be fulfilled.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

\*HYMN #82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Lighting the Candle

Claudia & Jack Alwood

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

RESPONSE (*sung to the tune “As with Gladness”*)

DIX

All singing:

**Light a candle bright and tall for the hope within our world.**

**Hope that heard the ages call as the stars and planets whirled.**

**Shine within our hearts today; Come, O hope, to us, we pray.**

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(together)*

**God of light, once again so many of us approach this season of Advent unprepared. We are not alert to your promised coming; as a result, we are exhausted by trying to fit life into a box of our own design. Like your people of old, we make ill-advised and impulsive, me-first decisions and blame you for the discouraging and painful consequences. By your grace, lead us through this Advent season in a way that will strengthen our faith, deepen our joy, and create a renewed sense of awe and wonder at the extravagance of your love. In the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we ask this. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen**

### \*APOSTLES' CREED *(Together)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

“Advent Fanfare”

arr. Lloyd Larson

David Furr, Piano; Mitchell Johnston, Organ (trumpet)

*The Lord is coming soon. Prepare the way with joyful alleluias.*

*He comes the vine to prune. Declare the day with joyful alleluias.*

*Make straight the crooked way, let every mountain be made low,*

*The rugged places plain for Christ, the Lord is coming, is coming!*

*Sing allelu, sing alleluia!*

*Behold the eastern sky! Prepare the way with joyful alleluias.  
Redemption draweth nigh. Declare the day with joyful alleluias.  
He comes with truth and grace, His reign shall be forevermore!  
Set free your voice of praise for Christ, the Lord is coming, is coming!  
Sing allelu, sing alleluia!*

## CALL TO OFFERING

\*O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL—#88 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.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### WE GROW IN THE WORD

## SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)

## SERMON

“Advent Hope: Jesus will Come Again!”  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

\*HYMN #347  
(*stanzas 1,2*)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

PICARDY

### WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE CUP  
*(To symbolize our unity in Christ, we hold the bread until the Elders and Deacons are served and then all partake as one body. To symbolize our personal relationship with the Lord, we drink of the cup, as the Spirit leads.)*

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN #97 “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR  
*(sung to the tune ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR)*

### \*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”  
arr. David Johnson

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

Stephanie Carson, Director of Traditional Music; David Furr, Organist