

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

RESPONSE

DIX

**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 1:1-14

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

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

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7

CAROL MEDLEY

#115 “Away In a Manger” MUELLER

**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.**

#128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” W ZLOBIE LEZY

**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!**

#146 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

**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 OFFERING “O Holy Night” arr. Tom Fettke
 Stephanie Carson, Barbara Jordan & Michele White, Trio

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 1:18-25

ANTHEM “Sing We All Noel” Mary McDonald
 Randy Ball, Soloist

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20 (NRSV)

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

What 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 #122

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

**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.*