

Large Print
Bulletin
&
Announcements

Welcome To
Northwood Presbyterian
Church

A Stephen Ministry Church
Organized February 19, 1978

December 8, 2024
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

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**Order for the Public Worship of God
December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM Worship Service**

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”
arr. Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Responsive, Luke 1:76-79*)

Leader: You Child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you
will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

**People: You will tell his people how to be saved through the for-
giveness of their sins.**

Leader: Because of our God’s deep compassion, the dawn from heav-
en will break upon us,

**People: to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the
shadow of death,**

All: to guide us on the path of peace.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

***HYMN #88** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 1,4,5)

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Lighting the Candle

Eleanor Cicerchi, Fred Heider & Amy Weskerna
The reader offers words about the candle of peace.

RESPONSE

Reader: And so wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.

All: We wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

All Singing: *(sung to the tune "Away In a Manger")*

MUELLER

**A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease;
for Jesus is coming to show us the way.
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(together)*

O God, you search us and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned. We long for your coming to change the world, and yet are unwilling to change even our own hearts; when we do not listen to the prophets and angels; when we reduce our preparation of your coming to reckless spending and trivialities. Forgive us for all of our failings, in Jesus' name. 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**

ANTHEM

"The People Who Walk in Darkness"

Pepper Choplin

Percussion, Jarrett Mattson & Dylan Cantin

*The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.
Now lift up your eyes, see the glory of the Lord.
And all flesh will see it together.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORDS 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

***O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL—#88**

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN**

“O God of Peace, You Sent Us John”

CAROL

(It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

**O God of peace, you sent us John who called, "Prepare the way!"
He challenged all we counted on and promised your new day.
He cried out in the wilderness and made the pathway straight.
He filled the valleys, smoothed the roads, and taught us how to wait.**

We hear the words that John proclaimed as we await Christ's birth.

We long for peace to come one day and fill this troubled earth.

Could it be that we're called to be peacemakers in our day?

By doing so, O God, may we again prepare the way.

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WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSV)

SERMON SERIES: UNEXPECTED PRESENTS

Sermon #1 “A New Direction”

Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN #121
(stanzas 1,3,4)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Dear Maker of the Starry Skies”

arr. Robert Hebble

(You are invited to reflect on the worship service during the closing voluntary. If you must leave before the end of the service, please respect those who remain and leave quietly.)

**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