

Large Print
Bulletin
&
Announcements

Welcome To
Northwood Presbyterian
Church
A Stephen Ministry Church
Organized February 19, 1978
December 15, 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
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**Order for the Public Worship of God
December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM Worship Service/Cantata**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNARY “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” J.S. Bach

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 #119** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY;

Lighting the Candle—Leslie & Ritchie Henley

The reader offers words about the candle of joy.

RESPONSE

DIX

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

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

All singing: A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,
a candle to welcome young Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder at candles bright glow.
Joy in the world that we all soon would know.

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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

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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.**

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

“On This Day”
A Celebration of the songs and Symbols of Christmas
(A Collection of anthems by various composers.)
Narration written by Rachelle Cox

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Bryan L. Greer

*On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
Him the Father gave us.*

*His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him
from the cold would hide him.*

Refrain: *Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*God’s bright star, o’er his head, Wise Men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him,
Praise him and adore him. **Refrain***

*On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven’s King,
born on earth to save us, peace and love he gave us. **Refrain***

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Dan Forrest

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Come, O Sovereign Prince of Heaven; come, O wondrous Love Divine.
Earth and heaven bow before Thee, Everlasting Peace sublime.
O Thou Source of joy and wonder, bless us as we seek Thy face.
At Thy manger grant us mercy, In Thine Advent grant us grace.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

Angels' Carol

by John Rutter

Rachelle Cox, Soloist

*Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song.*

*He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light
He is come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "Peace on earth".*

*He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love.
Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "Christ is born".*

Mary, Did You Know?

arr. Craig Courtney

Soloists: Claudia Mitcham, Dan Jeffre, Darrell Cooper

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and
daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.
Oh. Mary did you know?*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb:
This sleeping child you're holding, is the great, the great I AM!
Mary did you know?*

Angels Sing Glory (A Classic Christmas Celebration)

arr. Mark Hayes
Gail Rothrock, Soloist

Refrain: *Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

*While by our sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel
bright,
how great our joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! **Refrain***

*There shall be born, so He did say, in Bethlehem a Child today.
How great our joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying: Glory to God, glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth.*

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight over all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*King of kings, Forever and ever, And Lord of lords, hallelujah, hallelujah!
And He shall reign forever and ever.
King of kings, and Lord of lords, King of kings, and Lord of lords!
And He shall reign forever, forever and ever. Hallelujah!*

Behold That Star

arr. Mark Hayes
Soloists: Randy Ball, Lea Kirdatt, Michele White

Refrain: *Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder.
Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.*

*There was no room found in the inn. It is the star of Bethlehem.
For Him who was born free from sin. It is the star of Bethlehem.
The wise men traveled from the East. It is the star of Bethlehem.
To worship Him, the Prince of Peace. It is the star of Bethlehem.*
Refrain

A song broke forth upon the night From angel hosts all robed in white.
Refrain

*There's a star in the East on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Savior's born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Leave your ewes and leave your lambs. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Leave your sheep and leave your rams. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up shepherd and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherd kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.*

Silent Night

arr. Joel Raney
Revelation Youth Ringers:
Ellis Cantin, Aaron & Aidan McDermott, Skylar Weidner
Piano, David Furr

The Birthday of a King

arr. Lloyd Larson
Soloists: Barbara Jordan, Mike Wood

*In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a Child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy light O'er the place where Jesus lay.*

Refrain:

*Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.*

*'Twas a humble birthplace, but O how much God gave to us that day;
from the manger bed what a path has led, what a perfect, holy way.*

Refrain

BENEDICTION

(Please stand and sing the final stanza of "O Come, All Ye Faithful")

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord.**

Choir only: Christ is born! The King is born! Christ, the King, is born!

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

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
David Furr, Organist