

Large Print  
Bulletin  
&  
Announcements

**Welcome To**  
**Northwood Presbyterian**  
**Church**  
*A Stephen Ministry Church*  
*Organized February 19, 1978*  
**December 22, 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](http://www.northwoodpc.org)

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**Order for the Public Worship of God**  
**December 22, 2024**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**  
**11:00 AM Worship Service**

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY      “Gesu, Bambino”      Pietro Yon

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS      Chris Curvin, Pastor

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)*

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**People: Lift every valley, lift every voice.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

**\*HYMN #113**      “Angels We Have Heard on High”      GLORIA

**THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE**

Lighting the Candle

Jessie & Earle Lusk

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

**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 LOVE,**

**a candle to point us to heaven above;**

**a baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;**

**For Jesus is bringing God’s love to our earth.**

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(together)*

**Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. His story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Renew our faith and love 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 Gift of Love”

Maxine Woodbridge Posegate

Michele White, Soloist

*Little Jesus lay on the sweet smelling hay while angels watched from above;*

*And the stars looked down on the sleeping town where God sent His Gift of Love.*

*The stars looked down on the sleeping town where God sent His Gift of Love.*

*Shepherds out on the hill where sheep lay so still heard the angels singing above;*

*And they trembled with fright at the dazzling sight, when God sent His Gift of Love.*

*They trembled with fright at the dazzling sight, when God sent His Gift of Love.*

*“Fear thou not, for this One is the Father’s dear Son, who is come down to earth from above.” Then with joy did they go to the manger low, where God sent His Gift of Love.*

*With joy did they go to the manger low, where God sent His Gift of Love.*

## SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Mia Corso Lambur, Daughter of Ali & Garrett Lambur

### \*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.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORDS PRAYER

*(see ignite bulletin)*

### CALL TO OFFERING

### \*DOXOLOGY *(sung to the tune of The First Noel)*

THE FIRST NOEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \*HYMN

“He Is Born”

IL EST NE

**Refrain: He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes  
merrily!**

**He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.**

**Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;  
Thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! Refrain**

**O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;  
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind. Refrain**

**Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,  
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. Refrain**

## WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:1, 18-25 (NRSV)

SERMON SERIES: UNEXPECTED PRESENTS

Sermon #2 “More Than Just ‘Merry Christmas’”  
Chris Curvin, Pastor

## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN

“There’s a Song In the Air”

CHRISTMAS SONG

**There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky!  
There’s a mother’s deep prayer and a baby’s low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

**There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth,  
For the virgin’s sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! The star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

**We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! We shout to the lovely evangel they bring,  
And we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!**

\*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY     “I Saw Three Ships”     arr. Richard Elliott

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

Stephanie Carson, Music Director; David Furr, Organist