

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, 2024
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
Mark Fettke, Bookkeeper

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“O Holy Night”

arr. Dan Miller

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

#133

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

#119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

#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.**

#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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Spencer, Ann, Eric & Gemma Briggs and Mary Leita White

The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

RESPONSE MUELLER
 Reader: And so we offer this song to the One born to save us.
All singing: We honor Messiah, with Christ's candle flame.
Our Christmas Eve candles, glad tiding proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night;
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

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THE PROMISE OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38

MUSICAL OFFERING “The Birthday of a King” arr. Lloyd Larson
Barbara Jordan & Mike Wood, Soloists

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7

CAROL MEDLEY

#114 “Away In a Manger” CRADLE SONG
**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!**

CALL TO OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-20

ANTHEM “Angel’s Carol” John Rutter
Michele White, Soloist

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

SERMON SERIES: UNEXPECTED PRESENTS
Sermon #3 “Christmas Presence”
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.*

GREETERS:

Cynthia & David Lawrence

USHERS:

Sunday, December 29th we hope you will join us in worship for our 9AM Contemporary Service and 11AM Traditional Service and invite a friend!

TONIGHT'S OFFERING—HELPING HANDS FUND

All of the offerings received at the two Christmas Eve services will be used to replenish Northwood's much-used Helping Hands Fund. These funds are used to purchase food to replenish our food pantry and to help someone in need with groceries at a near-by store – to help purchase milk, bread, or eggs. Thank you for your generosity in the spirit of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:31-46.

THE MEANING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

For the past four Sundays we have been waiting—lighting the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Tonight, as we see the light of the center candle, we are reminded that this is the Christ Candle, for without Christ, there would be no Christmas. The Christ Candle can remind us of the expectation of Mary, the songs of the angels, the enthusiasm of the shepherds and the homage paid to the Christ child by the Magi. For we, too, live in joyous expectation of seeing Jesus face to face; we, too, sing alleluia to our King; we, too, run with excitement to tell others of this Shepherd King; and we, too, pay homage to the one who came to save us. On this Christmas Eve, may we all believe, so that we might become children of God.

Roxie Swartz & Cindy Gamble

Youth Programs

Youth will start a new season of activities in just a few weeks. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for programs with activities and choirs for all ages. For more information on youth activities, contact Dylan Cantin at youthdirector@northwoodpc.org or 727-796-8090 x2008.

Church Office Holiday Closings

The office will be closed Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th. We will be open December 27th from 9am-noon.

2024 Contributions

Giving intended for 2024 must be received in the church office by noon on Friday, December 27th or postmarked no later than December 30, 2024. Contributions which are processed electronically through your bank's online bill pay or via our website must be initiated much earlier (probably no later than December 26) so that the transaction will fully process and qualify for deduction in 2024.

News from the Stewardship & Finance Team

2025 Giving/Pledge Envelopes are available on the table in the library. Boxes are not numbered or labeled; you may take any one. Please remember that when making "cash" contributions, include your first and last name on the envelope to be sure it is accurately recorded. In our continuing efforts to reduce the number of envelope sets that are wasted each year as more people choose online giving, we are again using perpetual envelopes. The individual envelopes in the box are marked for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Sunday of each month rather than being dated. If you wish to set up online giving, go to www.northwoodpc.org and click the "Giving" link to our secure online portal. Thank you for your faithful support.