

Large Print
Bulletin
&
Announcements

Welcome To
Northwood Presbyterian
Church
A Stephen Ministry Church
Organized February 19, 1978
December 14, 2025
11:00am



Ministers: All Members of the Church
E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

Northwood Presbyterian Church
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**Order for the Public Worship of God
December 14, 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM Worship Service/Cantata**

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNARY “Echo Noel” Claude D’Aquin
(Let us quietly prepare our hearts for worship during the opening voluntary)

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 #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY;

Lighting the Candle—Art & Gretchen Worth

The reader offers words about the candle of joy.

RESPONSE

**All singing: Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Hope of all the earth thou art.**

Dear desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart.

(“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Glory to God, #82)

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

*CHRISTMAS RESPONSE

ANTIOCH

**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.**

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

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

A Celebration of the Gift of Jesus

(A Collection of anthems by various composers)

Narration written by Rachelle Cox

Narration read by Earle Lusk

Christmastime

Michael W. Smith/arr. Joseph M. Martin

Refrain: *Ring Christmas bells, ring them loud with a message
bringing peace on the earth, tidings of good cheer!
Come, carolers, come and join with the angels singing,
"Joy to the world!" Christmas time is here again!*

*Oh, children, gather around and listen.
You'll hear the sound of angels filling the sky,
telling everyone Christmastime is here! **Refrain***

*Oh, loved ones close to our hearts and strangers in lands afar,
together sharing the joy. Emmanuel.
Go tell the world! He has come to dwell. The time is near!
With one voice, let the world rejoice!*

*Ding dong, merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing.
Ring Christmas bells, Christmas bells, hear them ringing.
Ding dong, verily the sky is filled with angels singing.
Come, hear them singing. Gloria, Gloria, Gloria. Hosanna in excelsis.
Refrain*

*Oh, children, gather around and listen.
You'll hear the sound of angels filling the sky.
It's Christmas, Christmastime again!
Ring Christmas bells, ring the bells, hear them ringing!
Rejoice, it's Christmastime!*

Sussex Carol
Soloists, Randy Ball, Michele White

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

*On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring; (repeat)
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should men on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad; (repeat)
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.*

*When sin departs before his grace
then life and health come in its place. (repeat)
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.*

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: (repeat)

Then out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night. (repeat)

“Glory to God in highest heaven, now and forevermore,” Amen!

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Howard Helvey

Solo, Dennis Rasmussen

*Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.
Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell.
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.*

*Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest.
Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the Child so blest.”
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.*

*In Bethlehem they found him: Joseph and Mary mild,
seated by the manger, watching the holy Child.
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.*

*From the eastern country came the kings afar,
bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.
Glory to God, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.*

*Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
there was never a stable so like paradise.
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel. Sing we all noel!*

Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)

Chris Eaton & Amy Grant/arr. Lloyd Larson

Solo, Barbara Jordan

*I have traveled many moonless nights,
cold and weary with a babe inside
and I wonder what I've done. Holy Father,
you have come and chosen me now to carry your Son.*

*I am waiting in a silent prayer; I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now.*

Refrain: *Breath of Heaven, hold me together,
be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,
pour over me your holiness, for you are holy,
Breath of Heaven.*

*Do you wonder as you watch my face,
if a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan.
Help me be strong, help me be, help me. **Refrain***

Ukrainian Bell Carol

arr. Mark Hayes

From collection "International Carol Suites/Carols of Eastern Europe"

*Hark! Hear the song, joyful and strong, music so fair, filling the air.
Radiant the sound, heard all around, shattering the night,
bringing the light.
Seraphs sing, joy bells ring, news of a birth throughout the earth.
Promise fulfilled, heaven revealed.
All is made right this Christmas night.
Hope is reborn this Christmas morn.
Spread the good news, Jesus is born.*

*Suddenly angel voices are singing songs of goodwill
and peace to the earth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Hear angels sing on Christmas night, tidings they bring:
peace love, and light.*

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. by Mark Hayes

Duet, Darrell Cooper, Rachelle Cox

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the
bleak midwinter, long ago.*

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain.

Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.

*In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed, the Lord God almighty, Je-
sus Christ.*

*Angels and arch angels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air; but His mother only in her maiden bliss, worshiped the
beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a
lamb;*

*If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him; give
my heart.*

Jesus, O What A Wonderful Child

arr. by Mark Hayes Solo, Lea Kirdatt

Refrain: *Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful Child;*

Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild:

New life, new hope, new joy He brings.

Won't you listen to the angels sing,

"Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King."

He was herald by the angels, born in a lowly manger.

The virgin Mary was His mother, and Joseph was His earthly father.

Oh, three wise men came from afar,

they were guided by a shining star,

*to see King Jesus where He lay in a manger filled with hay. **Refrain***

Oh, what a wonderful Child!

Medley
Angels From the Realms of Glory
arr. Mack Wilberg
Chancel Choir Women

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the infant light.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Angels From the Realms of Glory
arr. Marshall McDonald
Solos, Mike Wood, Dan Jeffre

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight over all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Angels We Have Heard on High
arr. Mack Wilberg

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
See him in the manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL REPRISE “Angels We Have Heard On High”

**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