Large Print Bulletins

Welcome To
Northwood Presbyterian
Church
A Stephen Ministry Church
Organized February 19, 1978
November 29, 2026
11:00am



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Ministers: All Members of the Church
E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
Bob Scott, Interim Associate Pastor

Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761
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Order for the Public Worship of God
November 29, 2026
1st Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

(Let us quietly prepare our hearts for worship during the opening voluntary)

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Creator of the Stars of Night"
arr. Wilbur Held

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)* Sue Miskiewicz, Worship Leader

Leader: This Advent, we wait for God's promises to be fulfilled.
People: We welcome the God who interrupts our plans with His great love.
Leader: O, that God would rend the heavens and come down.
People: We open our hearts to God's presence and trust God's timing.
Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, fill our waiting with hope. As we wait expectantly, we stand and offer the peace of Christ to one another.

*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)

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE
Lighting the Candle

Gretchen & Art Worth
The reader offers words about the candle of hope.

ALL SINGING MUELLER

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of HOPE; in December's dark night;
While angels sing blessings from heavens starry sky,
our hearts we prepare for Jesus is nigh.

(Words Copyright@1986 Sandra Dean)

CALL TO CONFESSION

In this season of waiting, God invites us to set aside our anxieties, loosen our grip on control, and make room in our hearts for the coming of Christ. Trusting in God's mercy and steadfast hope, let us confess our sins together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(together)*

Almighty God, you are a God of hope, yet we confess that we place our trust in the empty promises of this world. We grow anxious when you call us to wait, and we seek control instead of surrendering to make room for you in our hearts. Forgive us, O Lord. Help us trust your timing and your promises, that we may say with the Psalmist, "Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God." Through Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(responsive, from Isaiah 64:1-2)*

Leader: Hear the good news: no eye has seen any God besides ours, who tears open the heavens to act for those who wait for him. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*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 "He Will Come" Patrick Liebergen

Prepare for the Lord! Allelu! The child adored! Allelu!
He will come from God above, he will come in peace and love.
The angels sing! Allelu! Good news they bring! Allelu!
He will come from God above, he will come in peace and love.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

The birth is near! Allelu! Loud joy we hear! Allelu!
He will come from God above, he will come in peace and love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORDS PRAYER
Bob Scott, Interim Associate Pastor

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
(Church offerings are given through the giving stations in the hallway, online or through the mail.)

*O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL—#88 VENI EMMANUEL
(stanza 6)

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 #92 "While We Are Waiting" WAITING

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS — Isaiah 64:1 (NRSVUE)
Mark 13:24-37 (NRSVUE)

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Christmas in the Carols
#1 "The Carol of Our Longing for God"
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN #82 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Prepare the Way, O Zion" arr. Paul Manz

(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.*

Stephanie Carson, Director of Traditional Music; David Furr, Organist