

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 24, 2015
11:00 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Senior Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
Troy Harris, Director of Youth & Young Adults
Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministries
Stephanie Carson, Director of Music
Thomas D. Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director
Tracy Donovan, Director of Communications & Membership Coordinator
Chris Hurst, Business Administrator
Linda O'Leary, Bookkeeper
Vicki Conolly, Director of Schools
Amy McDermott, Director of Nursery

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

OPENING VOLUNTARY

"Four Chorale Improvisations"

Paul Manz

In dulci jubilo
What Child Is This
Let All Together Praise Our God
What Is This Lovely Fragrance

WORDS OF WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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

*CAROL #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!

Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; *(refrain)*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. *(refrain)*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jackie and Jerry Koski

SUNG RESPONSE *(from Hymn #113, please remain seated)*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GLORIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Gracious God, you promised to send a Redeemer to your people. We confess that instead of trusting your promise, we have busied ourselves with activities. We give presents, but sometimes fail to be present with one another. We laugh and sing with friends, but fail to genuinely welcome the stranger in our midst. O Lord, forgive us by your grace, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Help us to grow in faith, be truly present with one another and welcome the stranger in our midst. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FIRST LESSON

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem. Micah 5:3-4

***HYMN #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.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38
The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.

SOLO

“No Golden Carriage, No Bright Toy”
Barbara Jordan, Alto

Gilbert M. Martin

THIRD LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23
St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

HYMN #114

“Away in a Manger”
(please remain seated)

CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

FOURTH LESSON

The shepherds go to Bethlehem. Luke 2:8-16

***HYMN #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 th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace: hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

CALL TO OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION—The Helping Hands Fund
Tonight’s Christmas Eve Offering is for the Helping Hands Fund. These gifts will help those in our community who come to our church office for help during the year. Know that as you help others, you do it for Christ the Lord.

