

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 2016

11:00 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
Jon Drawdy, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
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
Laura Woodard, Director of Schools
Amanda Johnson, Director of Nursery

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“On Christmas Night” (112)
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (128)

arr. David M. Cherwien
Neil Harmon

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 OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Steve Stoup, Lea D’Angelo and Ellen Stoup

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

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of grace and truth, you give the gift of yourself, but we take no notice as we are caught up in our own gifts given and received. You offer us new life in the baby born in Bethlehem but we make sentimental that birth and we reject new life. Your light comes into the world but we dwell on the darkness, you come to us as a human and yet we cannot see you in the human lives around us. Forgive what we have been, help us amend who we are, and direct who we shall be. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FIRST LESSON

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2-4

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.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.

SOLO

“Gesù Bambino”
 Liana Stephen, Soprano

Pietro A. Yon

THIRD LESSON

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-23

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 birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING	"What Child Is This"	David Cherwien
FIFTH LESSON	<i>The shepherds go to Bethlehem.</i>	Luke 2:8-20
THE CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE	"Pay Very Close Attention!"	Chris Curvin, Pastor
SOLO	"O Holy Night" Liana Stephen, Soprano	Adolphe Adam

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION	"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" "What Child Is This"	John Barr Paul Manz
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THE RECEIVING OF THE LIGHT

LITANY OF DEDICATION *(responsive)*

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
ALL: **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**
Leader: Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me will not remain in darkness."
ALL: **In His name I will light my candle and the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.**

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.

THE SPREADING OF THE LIGHT

*BENEDICTION

THE QUIET RECESSION WITH CANDLES STILL BURNING

Please exit the sanctuary quietly with your candle burning, symbolizing the spreading of Christ's light into the world. We do ask that you return the candles to the receptacles at the doorways before you leave the building.

GREETER Elaine Cornillaud, Jerry Koski

USHERS Barbara Englehart
Vicki & Will Parker

Childcare is not available for this service.

(Communion is served, using the intinction method, with people coming to the front of the Sanctuary. Please come in two lines down the center aisle and at the front chancel go to one of the stations, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your pew using the side aisles.)



THE PASTORS, CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF
of Northwood Presbyterian Church
wish you a very joyous Christmas and New Year.

Worship with us Sunday, December 25th 10:00 AM– One Service

A service for the whole church family in the form of a Lessons and Carols Service. This will be our only service this Sunday.

Three Services Sunday, January 1st– Epiphany Sunday

We begin the new year with worship at 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Pastor Chris Curvin will be preaching on the topic, “Beginning the New Year Without the Weight of the World on Your Shoulders!”

Children & Youth Programs

Children & 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 the church office or check out our website.

Church Office Holiday Closings

- The office will be closed Monday, December 26th and Tuesday, December 27th.
- The office will close on Friday, December 30th, and will remain closed Monday, January 2nd for New Year’s Day. We will re-open Tuesday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m.

2016 Giving

2016 Contributions—Giving intended for 2016 must be received in the church office by **noon on December 31st** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2016**. 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 2016.

News from the Stewardship & Finance Team

2017 Giving/Pledge Envelopes will be available Sunday, January 1 in the hall by the kitchen. 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.