

Northwood Presbyterian Church  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761  
www.northwoodpc.org

Welcome to Our  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
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  
Dylan Cantin, Assistant Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Mark Fettke, Bookkeeper

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY                      “Carol Rhapsody”                      Richard Purvis

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  
Rollie Haugen and Linda Feller

The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

ALL SINGING

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
you, who sang creations story now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o’re your flocks by night.  
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light. Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions bean afar;  
seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star. Refrain  
("Angels, from the Realms of Glory, vs 1-3; Glory to God #143)

THE PROMISE OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Breath of Heaven”arr. Lloyd Larson

Solo, Barbara Jordan

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

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-20

ANTHEM

“Sussex Carol”arr. Elaine Hagenberg

Soloists, Randy Ball & Michele White

SCRIPTURE READINGJohn 8:12 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

“Who Will Guide Your Sleigh Tonight?”  
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.*

*Please ensure all electronic devices are on silent during the service.*

Stephanie Carson, Music Director; David Furr, Organist



***The Pastors, Church Officers & Staff  
of Northwood Presbyterian Church  
wish you a very joyous Christmas and New Year.***

USHERS:  
Jane Kirkpatrick ,Jessica Catlin,  
Olivia Catlin & Ava Catlin

GREETERS:  
Carol Rathmell & Nan Robbins

Sunday, December 28th 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.



### 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](mailto:youthdirector@northwoodpc.org) or 727-796-8090 x2008.

### Church Office Holiday Closings

The office will be closed Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th. We will re-open December 29th from 9am-3pm.

### 2025 Contributions

Giving intended for 2025 must be received in the church office by noon on Friday, December 29th or postmarked no later than December 30, 2025. 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 23) so that the transaction will fully process and qualify for deduction in 2025.

### News from the Stewardship & Finance Team

**2026 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month rather than being dated. If you wish to set up online giving, go to [www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org) and click the "Giving" link to our secure online portal. Thank you for your faithful support.

*They shall call his name*

**Emmanuel...**

*God with us.*



*Christmas*  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**