HYMN NOTES

"Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming" (129)
This German carol dates at least to the 15th century but the earliest known copy of the text made in the 1580’s comes from a manuscript prayer book found at St. Alban’s monastery in Trier (Germany). That manuscript contains 19 stanzas with the likely intent of praising Mary drawing on the “Rose of Sharon” imagery. But it is unclear whether that first line was “ein Ros’” (a rose) or “ein Reis” (a branch), strengthening the associations with the “rod” and “branch” of Jesse in Isaiah 11:1—today’s lectionary scripture. That would also be more compatible with Protestant views. The music is the famous setting by Michael Praetorius from 1609.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by
Jody Beattie
In Honor of Betty Beattie’s Birthday

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COUNTDOWN
WELCOME
“Advent Joy” (Song of Creation)
Derek K. Hakes
Celestial Ringers (3rd -5th Grade)

MEET & GREET
PRAISE SONG
“Thrive”

ANNOUNCEMENTS
MINUTE FOR MISSION–RING, SING & MINGLE
THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE
Jim, Terri & Emma Youngblood
“Emmanuel”

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER
For more information and classroom assignments for Children’s Sunday School, please see Children’s Ministry News on the back panel of this bulletin.

CALL TO OFFERING
OFFERTORY
“Mary, Where Is Your Baby?”
Dan R. Edwards
Westminster Youth Choir

VIDEO
“John the Baptist”

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 3:1-12

MESSAGE
“An Uncomfortable Truth”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

COMMUNION
COMMUNION MUSIC
“Welcome to Our World”
Solo, Janet Winder

SONG OF DEDICATION
“Our God (with O Come, All Ye Faithful)”

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

Welcome To
Northwood Presbyterian Church
A Stephen Ministry Church

December 4, 2016

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

Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761
(727) 796-8900 Fax (727) 797-8276
www.northwoodpc.org

Like us on Facebook!
facebook.com/npc.clearwater

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS

8:15 & 11:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds–2nd Grade (16/17 School Year)
Children may remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School worship following the anthem.

9:30 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds–Kindergarten, Room 3
Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour with Kelly Tighe & Nora Gunderman.

1st-2nd Grade, Room 2
Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour with Meagan & Keith Decker.

3rd-5th Grades, Room 8
Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 8 with Kathleen & Todd Pope.

Parents, if you wish for your children to receive communion please have them remain with you in the worship service on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact Elder Dawn Winder, Chair of Worship Team.

9:30 AM MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Middle & High School Sunday School during the 9:30am service will meet in the sanctuary to worship together for the first 30 minutes, then move to the youth room for the lesson with Youth Director, Jon Drawdy.

6:30-7:30 P.M. Bible Study in rooms 12 & 14
Join us this evening as we continue studying Paul’s life and teachings to see how his call and his decision to accept the call can help us as we grow in Christ. This will be our last class for the year. Please contact Cindy at (727) 409-8727 if you have any questions.

8:15 AM TCI (Today’s Christian Issues) Class & Serendipity Class—
This week the combined Serendipity and TCI classes will delve into ‘Serendipitous Grace” as we hear the heart-warming story of a wonderfully unusual Thanksgiving dinner. The discussion will be led by Joe Zeigler. You can expect a lively discussion together with cookies and coffee.

11:00 A.M. Experiencing God Class in room 15 led by Vicki Krueger.

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WEATHER COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Order for the Public Worship of God  December 4, 2016  2nd Sunday of Advent  8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

WE GATHER
(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.  Please silence electronic devices.)

CALL TO WORSHIP  Chris Curvin, Pastor
Leader:  Jesus says: I am coming soon.  
People:  Amen.  Come Lord Jesus!
Leader:  A voice cries out in the wilderness:
People:  Prepare the way of the Lord!
Leader:  Let us worship God.

(8:15) OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  David M. Cherwien from An Advent Suite

(11:00) OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Advent Joy” (Song of Creation)  Derek K. Hakes
Celestial Ringers (3rd-5th Grade)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS  Stephanie Carson, Music Director
MINUTE FOR MISSION  Stephanie Carson, Music Director
INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS  Shirley Bahner, Sandi Falty, Marti Huff

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
(To symbolize our unity in Christ, we hold the bread until the Elders and Deacons are served and then all partake as one body.  To symbolize our personal relationship with the Lord, we drink of the cup, as the Spirit leads.)

*HYMN #93
“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”  TRUMO

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE
Lighting the Candle
(8:15) Linda & Darrough Diamond
(11:00) Bryan, Nicole & Bryce Bullis

The reader offers words about the candle of peace and reads from today’s text, Isaiah 11.

HYMN #654
“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”  Taize Community, 1986

WE CONFESSION
PRAYER OF CONFESSION  Paul Means, Associate Pastor
God of prophets: in the wilderness of Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord.  We confess that we have been slow to serve you.  Help us to hear good news, to repent, and be ready to welcome the Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ.  Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE
Comfort my people now, speak tender love and grace to those who fear God’s ruling might or doubt God’s strong embrace.  Prepare the way for Christ to make God’s pardon known.  In desert places, high and low, God’s glory will be shown.

*THE APOSTLES’ CREED (Together, page 35)

WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord, Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ANTHEM
“He Will Come!”  arr. Patrick M. Liebergen
Linda Feller, Laura O’Leary, Candy Spoenlein, Pam Wood, Handbells

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.
He will come! Alleluia!

(The pastor offers prayers of thanksgiving to God, remembering God’s acts of salvation, and concludes:  And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING  Charles Callahan
We go out to serve.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY
“Lift Up Your Heads”  David M. Cherwien from An Advent Suite

*BENEDICTION
(To symbolize our unity in Christ, we hold the bread until the Elders and Deacons are served and then all partake as one body.  To symbolize our personal relationship with the Lord, we drink of the cup, as the Spirit leads.)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION
“A Christmas Prelude”  Charles Callahan
Heather Wood, Clarinet

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
We go out to serve.

*HYMN #82
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  HYFYDOL

*Benediction

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