

Love
was
born
at
Christmas

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

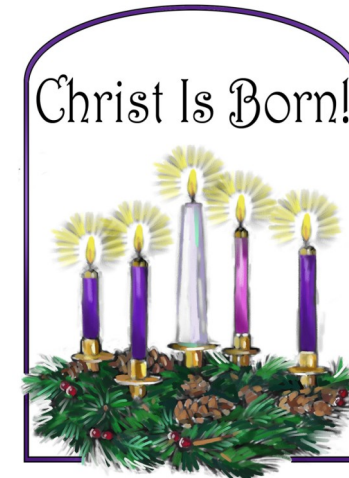
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761

www.northwoodpc.org

Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24, 2017

4:30 PM



The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
Vanessa Celotto, 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
Angie Surowiec, Acting Director of Schools
Jessica Jones, Director of Nursery

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Infant Care is available in our nursery tonight for our 4:30 service)

Sunday, December 24, 2017

4:30 PM

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Brianna Adkisson:	“What Child Is This?”	Piano
Hannah Gipson:	“Noel”	Piano
Delaney Pope:	“What Child Is This?”	Guitar
Aidan McDermott:	“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”	Piano
Mitchell Johnston:	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

***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!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (*Refrain*)

***CAROL #147** **“The First Nowell”** THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherd in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

***CAROL #132** **“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”** IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Nancy, Mike, Elizabeth, Pearce & Caitlyn Turner

The reader offers words about the light of Christ and reads from Isaiah 9.

One: And so we offer our song of praise:

All Singing: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CAROL #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.

CAROL #123 **“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”** CAROL

It came upon the 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.

CAROL #115 **“Away in a Manger”** MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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.

CALL TO OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION Paul Means, Associate Pastor

The offering this evening will be used to replenish Northwood’s much-used Helping Hands Fund. Someone is taken to a nearby grocery store – we help them purchase milk, bread, and eggs. Someone else is provided a one night stay in a modest motel. Someone else has a small amount sent to Duke Energy to keep their electricity on, etc., etc., etc. . . . Thank you for your generosity in the spirit of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:31-46.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Silent Night” arr. Aaron David Miller
Dylan Cantin, Bassoon

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER Paul Means, Associate Pastor

“A Christmas Carol”

By Pam Andrews

Director/Choreography, Stephanie Carson

SCENE 1

“A Christmas Carol” with Carol Medley

SCENE 2

“We Wish You A Merry Christmas”

SCENE 3

“Remember Jesus” with “What Child Is This”

Solos: Caitlyn Turner, Rachel Gangelhoff, Brianna Adkisson, Claire Cantin

SCENE 4

“His Christmas Presence” by Susie Williams

Solos: Aidan McDermott, Kathryn Birch

SCENE 5

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

SCENE 6

“Toward the Light” by Jeanne Stephen

Solos: Sarah Birch, Delaney Pope, Hannah Gipson

LIGHTING OF CANDLES #122 “Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

Thank you for holding lighted candles completely upright and leaning unlighted candles toward the lighted ones.

*CLOSING HYMN #134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

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 wonder, wonders of his love.

*BENEDICTION

CAST (In Order of Appearance)

Kevin, sibling.....Aidan McDermott
Mom.....Justine Ruisz
Lauren, sibling.....Delaney Pope
Addison, siblingKathryn Birch
Miss Carson, choir director.....Claire Cantin
Isaac, accountant.....James Birch
Callie, head angel.....Brianna Adkisson
Andi, head angel.....Hannah Gipson
Patti, Christmas past angel.....Rachel Gangelhoff
Paige, Christmas present angelSarah Birch
Fallon, Christmas future angel.....Caitlyn Turner
Little Timmy.....Ellis Cantin
Young man TimDylan Cantin
Adult Tim.....Steve Cantin
Christmas past, Woman.....Emily Cantin
Christmas present, boy.....Kaleb Adkisson

THANK YOU TO:

Justine Ruisz for helping with child control, props, being Mom, and a myriad of other things!!

Tanya Adkisson for her calming presence at all rehearsals and for assigning costumes and helping with the costume changes.

Tom Huffman for playing piano/organ during this service and playing for children in our pre-service music.

Parents for nurturing their children in the church by getting them to rehearsals, memorizing lines, and giving of their talents back to God - and what talents they have!

These Children for their dedication and joy for this musical. Their love of Jesus shows.

Worship with us Sunday, December 31st

We will resume our three services of 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Pastor Paul will provide a sermon entitled “When the Celebration of Christmas Fades in the Face of Life’s Challenges” based on the passage from Matthew 2:13-23.

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 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.
- The office will close on Friday, December 29th, and will remain closed Monday, January 1st for New Year’s Day. We will re-open Tuesday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m.

2017 Giving

2017 Contributions—Giving intended for 2017 must be received in the church office **by noon on December 31st** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2017**. 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 2017.

News from the Stewardship & Finance Team

2018 Giving/Pledge Envelopes will be available Sunday, December 31 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.

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. Someone is taken to a nearby grocery store – we help them purchase milk, bread, and eggs. Someone else is provided a one night stay in a modest motel. Someone else has a small amount sent to Duke Energy to keep their electricity on, etc., etc., etc. . . . 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.

USHERS: David, Suzanne, Claire & David Jr. Hamilton

GREETER: Cassondra Frederickson

Just for Kids

Help Mary & Joseph Get to the Stable

