Order for the Public Worship of God
December 16, 2018
3rd Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)  Chris Curvin, Pastor
Leader:  My soul magnifies the Lord;
People:  my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Leader:  The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
People:  Go tell it on the mountain;
People:  Be gentle to all: the Lord is near.

OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Deck the Hall” arr. Jack W. Jones
(acalectes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
(please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle)

*MUSICAL OFFERING
CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  (Together)
Everlasting One, whose glory and majesty we dare to approach only with fear and trembling, hear our cries. We are poor and needy in spite of your generous mercy, for we have followed our own passions and tried to shape our destinies with our own hands. We have created structures and procedures to secure and protect advantages for ourselves. Forgive us, Mighty God, and strengthen us for fuller service. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE
ADESTE FIDE LIS
Sing out, all God’s people! Shout what God is doing!
We need not fear the things that hurt or destroy;
God is here with us, healing and renewing.
O Lord, we know your presence, we trust that you are with us,
We thank you that you bless us, giving us joy.

---words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
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THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY
Lighting the Candle
8:15 & 11:00) The Presbyterian Women
The reader offers words about the candle of joy.

CALL TO OFFERING/PRAYER

MUSICAL OFFERING  “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
arr. David Cherwien

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“The Carols of John Rutter”

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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

(Stanzas 1,3,5)

(Isaiah 7:14)

Lake 2: 1-7 (NRSV)
Reflection
“Away in a Manger”

(Luke 2: 8-14)

Reflection
“How Great Our Joy”

(Isaiah 1:18-25)

Matthew 1:18-25
Reflection
“Angels’ Carol”

(Matthew 2:1-11)

Reflection
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

(Matthew 2:15-20)

Reflection
“O Holy Night”

(Michele White, Soprano)

John 1:1-9
Reflection
“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

(Michelle White, Soprano)

Lake 2: 1-7 (NRSV)
Reflection
“Away in a Manger”

Lake 2: 8-14
Reflection
“How Great Our Joy”

Lake 2: 15-20
Reflection
“O Holy Night”

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MUSIC NOTES:
John Rutter was born in 1945 in London and studied music at Clare College, Cambridge where from 1975-1979 he was Director of Music and directed the college chapel choir in various recordings and broadcasts. Since then, he has divided his time between composition and conducting. Most of his music that we are presenting today is from around 1981 and published in two collections titled O Holy Night and Joy to the World. His music is performed around the world and has featured in a number of British royal occasions, including the two most recent royal weddings. Along with Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015), Rutter co-edited four volumes of Carols for Choirs that have become standard arrangements for choirs worldwide. In 1983 he formed his own professional choir, The Cambridge Singers, with whom he has made numerous recordings.

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WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*BENEDICTION

HYMN #133  “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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

God of God, Light of Light, Lo! He abhors not the virgin’s womb;
Very God, begotten, not created: (Refrain)
Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  Glory to God in the highest: (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. (Refrain)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY  “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
arr. Michael Burkhardt

(You are invited to reflect on the worship service during the closing voluntary. If you must leave before the end of the service, please respect those who remain and leave quietly.)

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

*Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.

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The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by
Friends of Northwood
Flower orders & donations costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the “2018-2019 Flower Reservation Chart” on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Thank you to those providing flowers each week in honor/in memory of someone or an anniversary/birthday!
**COUNTDOWN**

**WELCOME**

**THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY**
The Presbyterian Women

**PRAISE SONG**
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**MEET & GREET**
“Angels We Have Heard on High”
“It’s Christmas”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**
“All Is Well”
Janet & Roger Winder

**SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER**

**CALL TO OFFERING**
“He Has Come for Us”

**SCRIPTURE**
Matthew 1: 1 - 16

**MESSAGE**
“The Best Seats in the House”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

**SONG OF DEDICATION**
“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

**GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU**

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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**8:15 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
3 Yr. Olds-2nd Grade (18/19 School Year)
Children may remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School worship during the offering.

**9:30 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
3 Yr. Olds-1st Grade, Room 3
Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour with Jessica Melissa Long & Joyce Curvin.
2nd-5th Grade, Room 4
Students will start in the sanctuary and then move to room 4 with Cassondra Fredriksen.

**11:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
3 Yr. Olds-2nd Grade (18/19 School Year)
Children may remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School worship during the offering.

**11:00 AM MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
The Middle & High School youth (6th-12th graders) are meeting this week for Sunday School. All youth are welcome to worship together in the center-right-side of the Sanctuary at the 9:30 Ignite service. After the service, youth will meet in the City at 10:45am for Sunday School where we are currently studying the Book of Exodus.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

9:30 a.m. TCI (Today’s Christian Issues) Rooms 13-15
One by one we see super large companies like Sears, General Electric and General Motors fall by the wayside. Companies we felt were too large to fail. We will look at Sears and ask could this happen to our churches as well? What lessons can we learn from the private sector that may have application as we see declining attendance. Coffee and cookies will be available to add to the discussion dealing with “Today’s Christian Issues.”

11:00 a.m. Experiencing God Class Room 15, led by Vicki Krueger.
Each day brings new questions. Should I stay? Should I go? Buy it? Sell it? Start it? Stop it? There is one question you can ask that makes it easy to determine the answer to all the other questions. In our video and discussion series, we will learn how asking this question has the potential to save us time, money and tears. All we have to do is ask it. Come join us!

10:45 a.m. “Journey Through” Room 4, led by Vanessa Celotto.
Journey Through is an adult Sunday school class that meet in room 4 from 10:45-11:30 that coincides with the youth Sunday school class. We will continue our study of the book of Exodus.

6:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Bible Study, Parlor
**This Bible study will NOT meet during the month of December. We will resume in January.**
We are studying the Book of Isaiah, using the study guide Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times by Howard Peskett. This is a discussion study where we use the ancient writings of Isaiah, discuss his prophecy regarding the future coming of Christ and learn the meaning to us today. Please contact Cindy Huffman 727-409-8727 for more information. Come join us!