

**ANTHEM** "O Lamb of God" St. James Christmas Service  
*O Lamb of God, O Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away;  
 Have mercy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the son of Mary.  
 This, this is your body giv'n, your precious blood, the gift of heav'n.  
 Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the son of Mary.*

**CAROLS DURING COMMUNION** (first stanzas)  
 (please join in singing as you are able)

<b>HYMN #88</b>	"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"	VENI EMMANUEL
<b>HYMN #115</b>	"Away in a Manger"	MUELLER
<b>HYMN #145</b>	"What Child Is This"	GREENSLEEVES
<b>HYMN #147</b>	"The First Nowell"	THE FIRST NOWELL

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

\***CLOSING HYMN #110** "Love Has Come" BRING A TORCH

\***BENEDICTION**

**SUNG BLESSING** "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"  
 (please be seated) Timothy R. Matthews  
*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown when Thou camest to earth for me; But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for Thy holy nativity. O come to my heart, Lord Jesus—there is room in my heart for Thee.*  
 -text by Emily E.S. Elliot

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

"Toccata on 'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen'"  
 Jason D. Payne

(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.)

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

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

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

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by*

**Beth & Raymond Linville**  
 In Honor of Our Family  
**Mary & Peter Kreuziger**  
 In Honor of Our Family



Flower orders & donation 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!

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**10:00 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**3 Yr. Olds—Kindergarten Room 3**

Students will start and stay in their classroom for Sunday school with Justine Davis & Sydney Blackmore.

**11:00 AM MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Middle & High School youth (6th-12th graders) are NOT meeting this week for Sunday School.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**9:30 A.M. TCI (Today's Christian Issues) Rooms 13-15**

**TCI will not meet December 23rd or 30th.** We'll resume on January 6, 2019 with new discussions of contemporary issues and their effects on our faith journey. And, as always, we'll have coffee and cookies to enrich the conversations.

**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.

**\*\*This Bible study will NOT meet this week (Dec. 23)**

*Journey Through* is an adult Sunday school class that meets 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!

**FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY**

**GREETERS:**

Kim Blackmore & Nancy Marshall

**Ushers & Greeters**



**USHERS:**

David & Suzanne Hamilton  
 Roger Snay & Jon Mills

**ACCOLYTE:** Claire Cantin

**VAN DRIVER:** Don Stevens



**Welcome To  
 Northwood Presbyterian  
 Church**

*A Stephen Ministry Church*

**December 23, 2018**



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF**

*Advent*

*Ministers: All Members of the Church*

E. Chris Curvin, Pastor  
 Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**

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**Order for the Public Worship of God**  
**December 23, 2018**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**  
**10:00 AM Worship Service**

**THE GATHERING**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING VOLUNARY** “Joy to the World” Joseph M. Martin  
*(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION** Stephanie Carson, Music Ministry Garage Sale

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

**\*CAROL MEDLEY**

**#132** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO  
*Stanzas 1,2,3*

**#117** “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” WINCHESTER OLD  
*Stanza 1-all*  
*Stanza 2-all*  
*Stanza 4-choir only*  
*Stanza 6-all*

**#143** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” REGENT SQUARE  
*Stanzas 1,2*

**CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION**

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)**

While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee, for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ’s glory. Amen.

**A TIME OF SILENCE**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #108 (stanza 1)** DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.

**THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE**

Lighting the Candle—Cassandra & Annabelle Fredriksen  
*The reader offers words about the candle of love.*

**All Singing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**STORY** “Hi There!” by Nancy Dahlbe  
Zoe Holcomb, Reader

**ANTHEM** “Go Tell It on the Mountain” arr. John Rutter  
*(the text appears at hymn #136)*

**OUR MINISTRY WITH THE CHILDREN**  
*(Children ages 3yrs – kindergarten are welcome to remain in service with their parents or join us in room 3 for Children’s Church.)*

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. Al Roberts  
Heather Wood, Clarinet; Dylan Cantin, Bassoon

**\*DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION** THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

**STORY** “If You’re Missing Baby Jesus, Call 7162” by Jean Gietzen  
Nancy Turner, Reader

**ANTHEM** “Shout! Sing Hallelujah!” Heather Sorenson  
Westminster Youth Choir

*Shout to God! Sing out a hallelujah! Shout to God! Let all the world rejoice!  
Lift your voice, and with all the people, sing to the newborn King!*

*Shout to God! Let all the world exclaim: “Praise His name, who life everlasting brings!”*

*He’s the new born King!*

*Let the oceans clap their hands; mountains leap for joy:*

*Trees bow down and stars adore this tiny, baby Boy!*

*Gloria,  
Hallelujah,  
In excelsis Deo,  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*

*Shout to God! Let all the world exclaim: “Praise His name, who life everlasting brings!”*

*He’s the newborn King! Son of God, Son of Man, Holy Lamb! He is the King!*

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**THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

**CAROL #121** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS  
*(stanza 1)*

**#123** “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL  
*(stanza 1)*

**#113** “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA  
*(stanza 1)*

**ANTHEM** “Run, Shepherds!” Victor C. Johnson  
Sarah Flaherty, Lindsey Peterson, Dylan Cantin,  
David Hamilton, Heather Wood

**WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT**

**INVITATION**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

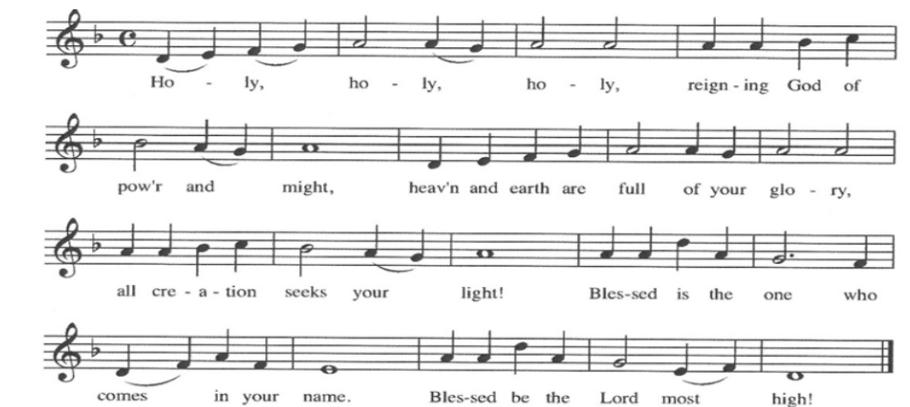
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you...

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate for Christmas, remembering God’s act of salvation, and concludes:*

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join your unending hymn:



*(all singing)*

*The pastor continues the Thanksgiving, recalling the institution of the Lord’s Supper. The Pastor concludes:*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

*The pastor continues, recalling the work of the Holy Spirit and Christ’s coming again*

**PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(Serving is by intinction. Come in two lines down the center aisle to the front, take a piece of bread and dip it lightly in the cup. Return to your seat by the side aisles.)*