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

Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Monday, December 24, 2018
7:30 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP
(Infant Care is available in our nursery for the 7:30 service)

OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Noel Polonais”
Alexander Guilmant
(based on the carol at #128)

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”
Heather Wood, Clarinet
arr. Ed Hogan

OPENING PRAYER

INTROIT
“A Christmas Antiphonal”
Carol Zaffiri, Soprano
Lucas Johnston and Mitchell Johnston, Handbells

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL #133 “O Come All Ye Faithful”
ADESTE FIDEISIS

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

WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
Chris Curvin, Pastor

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE
Tracey, Kathryn, James and Sarah Birch
All Singing: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*CAROL #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!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till morning new
Saw glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

THE PROMISE OF THE LIGHT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (together)
Open us, O God, to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind with the shepherds to Bethlehem
to see the glorious redemption you have brought to pass
through the Newborn lying in a manger. Amen.
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38

**SOLO**
“O Holy Night”  
Adolphe Adam  
Jim Howes, Soloist

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7

**ANTHEM**
“How Great Our Joy”  
Carol Zaffiri, Soloist  
arr. John Rutter

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a Child today.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  

There shall a Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  

This gift of God we’ll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:15-20

**SOLO**
“In the Bleak Midwinter”  
Gustav Holst  
Cindy Huffman, Soloist

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see: hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born King.  
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace: hail, the Sun of Righteousness.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King.

THE RECEIVING OF THE LIGHT

**LITANY OF DEDICATION**
(Responsive)

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”  
People: The Lord is my light and my salvation.  
Leader: Jesus said, “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me will not remain in darkness.”  
People: In His name I will light my candle and the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

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  
(please remain seated)

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.
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, wonders of his love.

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY  “Joy to the World”  David Cherwien

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

GREETERS:
Joyce Curvin & Mary Duffey

USHERS:
Todd & Jacob Pope
Ellen Stoup & Marie Ziegler

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.

Worship with us Sunday, December 30th
We will resume our three services of 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Pastor Paul will provide a

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 in-
formation on youth activities, contact the church office or check out our website.

Church Office Holiday Closings
• The office will be closed Tuesday, December 25th and Wednesday, December 26th.
• The office will be closed Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st for New
Year’s Day. We will re-open Wednesday, January 2 at 8:30a.m.

2018 Giving
2018 Contributions—Giving intended for 2018 must be received in the church office by
noon on December 28th or postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. 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 2018.

News from the Stewardship & Finance Team
2019 Giving/Pledge Envelopes will be available Sunday, December 30 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,
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.

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

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NPC Guest Wi-Fi
Now live streaming our 9:30 & 11:00
services on northwoodpc.org.