**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**
“Toccata on ‘God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen’”
Jason D. Payne
“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
arr. Ed Hogan
“Noel Suisse”
Louis-Claude Daquin
“What Child Is This?”
arr. Ed Hogan
Heather Wood, Clarinet

**OPENING PRAYER**
O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.
Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.
Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CAROL #133 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

*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**
Spencer, Ann, Eric & Gemma Briggs
The reader offers words about the Christ Candle

*CAROL #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**QUARTET**
“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”
Heather Wood, Lindsey Peterson, Robert Wood, David Hamilton, Jr.

**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
Justine Davis, Director of Schools & Children’s Ministry

DUET
“Mary Did You Know” Lowry/Green
Barbara Jordan & Larry Stephen

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-7
Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth & Families

ANTHEM
“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella” arr. Mark Hayes
Rachelle Cox, Soloist

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS- The Helping Hands Fund
Tonight’s Christmas Eve Offering is for the Helping Hands Fund. Gifts given this evening are used to help those in our community with significant needs who come to our church office during the year. Thank you for your generosity in the spirit of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:31-46.

MUSICAL OFFERING
“Christmas Night” arr. Dave Ritter
Melanie Schulz, Violin

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-20
Stephanie Carson, Director of Music

*CAROL #119
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem.’
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born King.
Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
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.

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.

LITANY OF DEDICATION (responsive)
Paul Means, Associate Pastor
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)
Albert Hay Malotte

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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia!”
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure Light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*REDEDICATION OF OUR LIVES TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

*THE LORD’S PRAYER (all singing) Albert Hay Malotte
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 for ever. Amen.
GREETERS: Nancy Johnson

USHERS: Claudia Alwood & Carol Rathmell
Ellen Stoup & Bunny Bitner

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

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.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*CAROL #134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
et every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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” arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

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

One Worship Service, December 29th
There will be One Worship Service on Sunday, December 29th at 10:00 A.M. Pastor Paul will provide a sermon entitled “Eyes That See the Salvation of God” based on the passage from Luke 2: 22-40.

Sunday, January 5th we will resume with all three services, 8:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. traditional and 9:30 A.M. contemporary.

Christmas Eve Service

The Pastors, Church Officers & Staff
of Northwood Presbyterian Church
wish you a very joyous Christmas and New Year.
**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 Wednesday-Friday, December 25th-27th.
- The office will be closed Wednesday, January 1st for New Year’s Day. We will re-open Thursday, January 2 at 8:30a.m.

**2019 Giving**
2019 Contributions—Giving intended for 2019 must be received in the church office by noon on December 31st or postmarked no later than December 31, 2019. 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 2019.

**News from the Stewardship & Finance Team**
2020 Giving/Pledge Envelopes are available 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.

**CPR Training Opportunity**
A CPR class will be held on Friday, January 6th at 10:30am in room 15. This is for a two year certification and the cost is $20. If you would like to attend the class, please contact Justine Davis at childrensministry@northwoodpc.org or 727-641-8140.