

HYMN NOTES:

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (#123)

This text was written by Edmund H. Sears, a Massachusetts Unitarian minister, who was deeply involved in the “social gospel.” It was first published in *The Christian Register* in December 1849. This was the first of the carol-like hymns from American poets. Hymns stressing the social message of Christmas (peace on earth, goodwill) are distinctly American. Based on Luke 2:13-14, it is a call for us to respond to the song of the angels and to send back to heaven the message that we will make peace on earth. After 2000 years, we are still working on that.

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



Mark & Ibelise Luther
In Honor of
Our Son, Jon-Jon's 13th Birthday



Carol Bushnell
In Loving Memory of
Lauren Bushnell

Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the “2013 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!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO....

Sunday, December 22nd: Jonathan Luther, Sharon O’Donnel, Steve Rickrode

Monday, December 23rd: Greg Brinkman, Larry Grennan

Tuesday, December 24th: Keith Kelly, Kate Schenk

Wednesday, December 25th: Bill Bitner, Bobbi Hunt, Patty Martin, James Moore, Jane Urban

Thursday, December 26th: Jim Warren

Friday, December 27th: Barbara Stone, Sally Uhler

Saturday, December 28th: Emma Heycock, Charlotte McQuown

If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven’t seen them in church recently, give them a call!

FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY

ACOLYTES:

(8:15) Isaac Jeffre

(11:00) Kylie Crossley

GREETERS:

(8:15) Don Morrison

(11:00) Jane Sumwalt

USHERS:

(8:15) Ellen Stoup, Patty Martin
Jackie & Jerry Koski

(9:30) Bill & Louise Mylin

(11:00) Brooke Allison, Nancy Johnson
Dane & Vicki Phillips

VAN DRIVER: Joe Nelson



EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR ALL AGES

8:15 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (13/14 School Year) Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children’s Message.

Teachers: Nathan Rodewald & Kelsey Propst

9:30 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-Kindergarten (13/14 School Year) Room 3

Teachers: Dan Gipson & Mauricio Estavil

1st & 2nd Grades

Room 16

Teachers: Mr. Bill Sutton & Marcy Kemerer

3rd-5th Grades

Room 8

Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 8.

Teachers: Eric & Amy Kemerer

11:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (13/14 School Year) Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children’s Message.

Teachers: Barbara Englehart & Carissa Johnston

In the coming weeks, let us prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of the month. It is a prayerful time for giving thanks and confessing our sins, renewing our commitment to God, and hearing the Word proclaimed. Parents, if you wish for your children to receive communion please have them remain with you in the worship service on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact elder Jackie Koski (jackieandjerry@verizon.net), Chair of the Worship Team the week prior to communion Sunday.

9:30 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SERENDIPITY—Rooms 13 & 15

TODAY: Doug Shierling is going to devote the class period to Christmas. Join us and see what he has for us. Class starts at 9:45, but come a little early for coffee and a time to chat.

TCI (Today’s Christian Issues)—Rooms 9 & 11

TODAY: Use of money: Secular or Sacred. Join us as Ken Tobiasen leads our discussion. The class meets in rooms 9 & 11 with coffee and cookies. *Please note our class will not meet Sunday, December 29th. We will resume Sunday, January 5th.*

11:00 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

EXPERIENCING GOD – Rooms 13 & 15

TODAY: "Christian." Ask 100 people to define what it means, and you'll get 100 different answers. In this series, we will explore the truth and fiction behind one of the most famous brands in all of history. Led by Vicki Krueger.

**Welcome To
Northwood Presbyterian
Church**

A Stephen Ministry Church

December 22, 2013



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 22, 2013
4th Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services**

WE GATHER

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

OPENING VOLUNTARY arr. Joel Raney
“Away in a Manger”
Jubilation Ringers; Adrienne Clover, Flute; Tom Huffman, Piano

(Acolytes 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 place it in the offering plate later in the service).

***HYMN #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”** GLORIA

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE—1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13
(8:15) The Wood Family: Dallas, Pam, Robert & Heather
(11:00) The Mills Family: Jon, Vickie, Eric, Amy, McKenna & Matthew

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN #85 TIF IN VELDELE
“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”
(All four stanzas.)

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

God of the future: you are coming in power to bring nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We have lived casual lives, and ignored your promised judgment. Judge us, O God, for we have been slow to serve you. Forgive us, for the sake of your faithful servant, Jesus, our Savior, whose triumph we want and eagerly wait for. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #88** (Stanza 2) VENI EMMANUEL
O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ord’rest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

ANTHEM “Away in a Manger” arr John Rutter
(The text is at Hymn #115 in Glory to God.)

FAITH SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN *(Children age 3 (by 9/13) through fifth grade may go to Room 3 for Children’s Worship.)*

WE UNITE IN PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.”

WE SHARE

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING arr. Larry Stephen
“What Child Is This”
Barbara Jordan & Larry Stephen

***DOXOLOGY—#606** OLD HUNDREDTH
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. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (page 783) Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

CHRISTMAS HYMNS *(Please Remain Seated.)*

#117 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” WINCHESTER NEW
(Stanzas 1, 4)
#110 “Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH
(Stanzas 1, 2)
#108 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
(Stanzas 1, 6)

SCRIPTURE READING (page 792) Matthew 11:2-6 (NRSV)

SERMON Chris Curvin, Pastor
“The Angel with Large, Protruding Front Teeth”

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

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

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY arr. Wilbur Held
“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”
(based on Martin Luther’s Christmas Hymn #111)

(You are invited to remain for the final act of worship, the closing voluntary. A closer look is welcomed if you wish to come stand next to the organ console.)

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

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

ignite

ignite is a contemporary worship service at 9:30 that delivers the message of Jesus Christ through Powerful Music, Media & Scripture Based Sermons.

LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Wolf Family: Shawn, Christine & Ally

“Away in a Manger”
Jubilation Ringers; Adrienne Clover, Flute; Tom Huffman, Piano
arr. Joel Raney

**MEET & GREET
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER

3rd-5th Grade Children dismissed to Sunday School

**CALL TO OFFERING
OFFERTORY**

“Love Came Down at Christmas”
arr. Robert W. Thygerson

“A SKIT GUY’S CHRISTMAS”

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
Linda Granata, Penny Whistle

ELIZABETH
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Larry & Jeanne Stephen

MARY
“Mary Did You Know”
Linda Granata, Cindy Huffman, Janet Winder

JOSEPH
“A Strange Way to Save the World”
Dan Jeffre, Will Parker

INNKEEPER
“Bethlehem Skies”
Stephanie Carson, Will Parker, Lex Long

SHEPHERD
“The First Noel”

WISE MAN
“What Child Is This?”

SCRIPTURE
John 1:1-5, 10, 14

“He Has Come for Us/God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU