



*THE PASTORS, CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF  
of Northwood Presbyterian Church  
wish you a very joyous Christmas and New Year.*

**Worship with us Sunday, December 29th**

Join us for worship Sunday, December 29th at one of our three services:

- 8:15 am Traditional Service
- 9:30 am Ignite Contemporary Service
- 11:00 am Traditional Service

**Discovering Northwood**

The New Year is a significant time for friends to join our Church family. "Discovering Northwood" classes for newcomers will be held Sunday, January 19th. This class, meeting at 10:45 am in room 4 of the Christian Education building, provides a foundation for your faith in Christ to grow while better understanding the Presbyterian Church, Northwood and all the possibilities for you to get involved. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Pacana, the Membership Coordinator at [Katie@northwoodpc.org](mailto:Katie@northwoodpc.org), or the senior pastor, Rev. E. Chris Curvin, at [chriscurvin@northwoodpc.org](mailto:chriscurvin@northwoodpc.org). Both Katie and Chris can be reached at the church office at 796-8090.

**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**

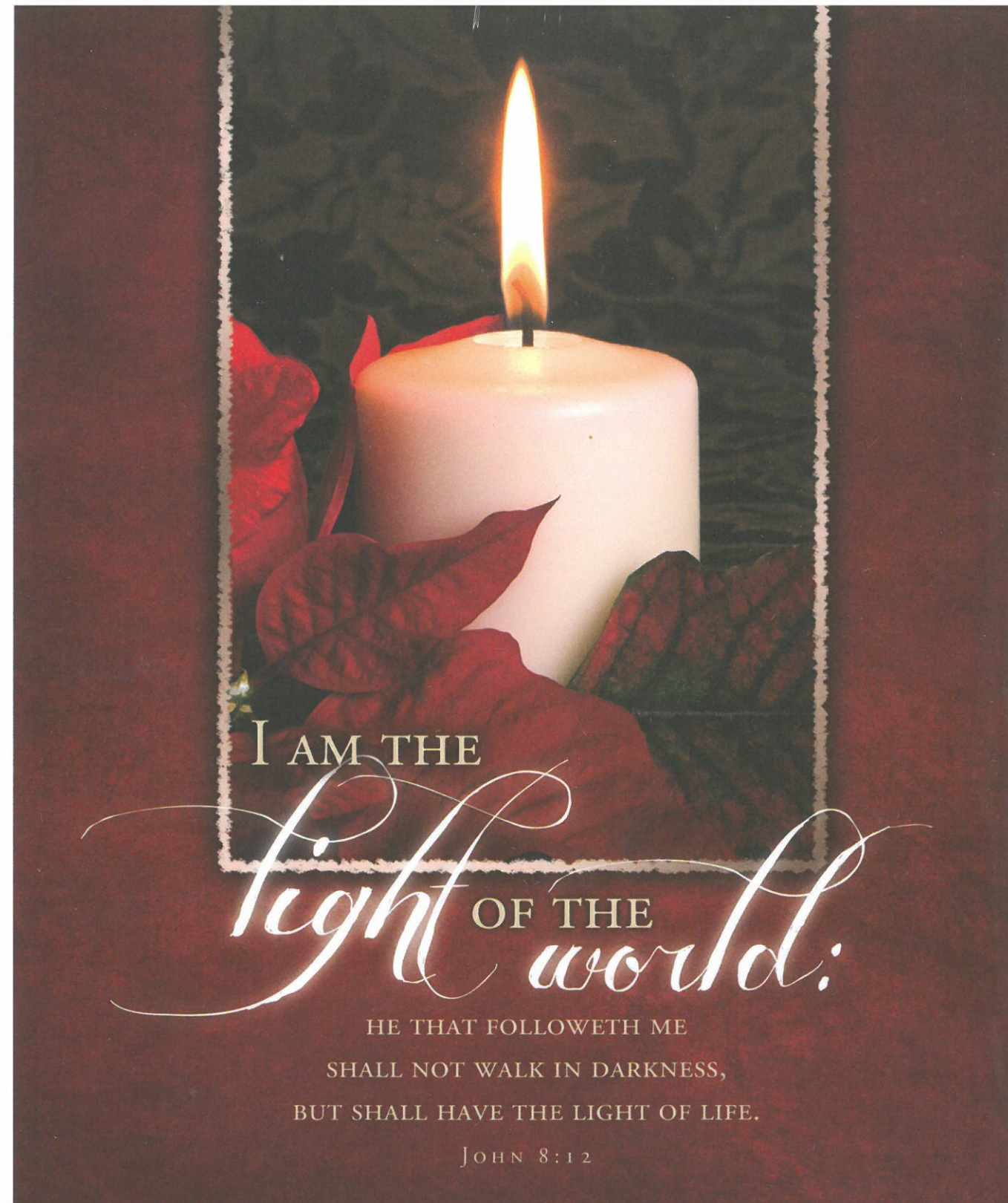
- The office will be closed Tuesday, December 24th at noon and will remain closed Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th for Christmas.
- The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31st at noon, and will remain closed Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day. We will re-open Thursday, January 2nd at 9 am.

**2014 Giving/Pledge Envelopes**

Additional offering envelopes for 2014 have been ordered and will be available in the hall by the kitchen in January. Boxes are not numbered or labeled; you may take any one. When making "Cash" contributions, please include your name on the envelope to ensure it is accurately recorded. If you wish to set up online giving, go to [www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org) and click the "Giving" link to our secure online portal. Thank you for your faithful support.

**News from the Stewardship & Finance Team**

**2013 Contributions:** Giving intended for 2013 must be received in the church office by **noon on December 31st** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2013**. 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 2013.



# Northwood Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, Florida 33761

www.northwoodpc.org

## WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

11:00 PM



## Christmas Eve

The Reverend Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor

Troy Harris, Interim Director of Youth & Young Adults

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministries

Stephanie Carson, Director of Music

Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

Katie Pacana, Director of Communications & Membership Coordinator

## A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

**OPENING VOLUNTARY** "Où S'en vont Ces gais bergers" Claude Balbastre  
(Where are the happy shepherds going?) (1727-1799)  
"I Saw Three Ships" arr. Diane Bish  
"Reflections on Carols" Michael Helman

**WORDS OF WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**  
(Please complete the bulletin insert, "FRIENDSHIP SHEET", and place it in the offering plate later in the service.)

**\*CAROL #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES**

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

**Refrain:** O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory 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**)

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**—Psalm 24:7-10  
**The Robicheau Family:** Rob, Trish, Jessica, Robert & David

**SUNG RESPONSE** (from Hymn #113, please remain seated) GLORIA  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)  
Gracious God, you promised to send a Redeemer to your people. We confess that instead of trusting your promise, we have busied ourselves with activities. We give presents, but fail to be present with one another. We laugh and sing with friends, but fail to genuinely welcome and care for the stranger in our midst. O Dear Lord, forgive us. By your grace, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, may we grow in our understanding of what it means to be a child of God, and live out the joy and privilege of sharing your love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**FIRST LESSON**

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

**Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7**

**ORGAN**

“Wie Schon leuchtet der Morgenstern”  
*O Morningstar, How Fair and Bright*  
*(based on Hymn #827, a traditional hymn of prophecy and hope)*

Max Drischner  
(1891-1971)

**SECOND LESSON**

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

**Micah 5:3-4**

**\*HYMN #121**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**THIRD LESSON**

*The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.*

**Luke 1:26-35, 38**

**SOLO**

“Winter Snow”  
Stephanie Carson, Soloist

Audrey Assad

**FOURTH LESSON**

*St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**Matthew 1:18-23**

**HYMN #114**

**“Away in a Manger”**  
*(please remain seated)*

CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**FIFTH LESSON**

*The shepherds go to Bethlehem.*

**Luke 2:8-16**

**\*HYMN #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 the morning new  
Saw the 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!

**SIXTH LESSON**

*The wisemen are led by the star to Jesus.*

**Matthew 2:1-11**

**DUET**

**“What Child Is This?”**  
Michele White & Stephanie Carson

arr. Lloyd Larson

**SEVENTH LESSON**

*John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

**John 1:1-5, 14**

**WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS-The Deacon's Fund**

*Tonight's Christmas Eve Offering is for the Deacons' **Helping Hands Fund**. These gifts will help those in our community who come to our church office for help during the year. Know that as you help others, you do it for Christ the Lord.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

“O Holy Night”  
Michele White, Soprano

Adolphe Adam

**SCRIPTURE READING** (page 870)

**John 8:12 (NRSV)**

**THE CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE**

“Who Will Guide Your Sleigh Tonight?”

E. Chris Curvin, Pastor

**\*CAROL #119**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
*Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. (*Refrain*)

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. (*Refrain*)

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*unison*)

“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 BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE CUP**

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION** “Away in a Manger”  
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

arr. Diane Bish  
arr. Diane Bish

**THE RECEIVING OF THE LIGHT**

**LITANY OF DEDICATION** (*responsive*)

**LEADER:** Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

**ALL:** **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.”

**ALL:** **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

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.

**THE SPREADING OF THE LIGHT**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**THE QUIET RECESSION WITH CANDLES STILL BURNING**

*Please exit the sanctuary quietly with your candle burning, symbolizing the spreading of Christ’s light into the world. We do ask that you return the candles to the receptacles at the doorways before you leave the building.*

**USHERS**—Ellen Stoup, Barbara Englehart, Jon & Vickie Mills  
**GREETERS**—Barbara & Bob Moler  
Childcare is not available for this service.