



Northwest Presbyterian Church

Service of Worship

Making Disciples • Making Friends • Making a Difference

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30AM



PRELUDE

“Gesù Bambino”

Pietro Jon

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GREETING

Rev. Dr. Gray Norsworthy

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Nate, Cora, and Alex Bayer

One: The Old Testament prophet Isaiah tells us this: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

***All:* Immanuel means “God with us.” The prophet was speaking not about a God who is in some faraway place, but a God who is near us, who comes to be with us - in our work, our play, our times together as a family.**

One: Our first Advent candle was the sign that Jesus brings light and hope. We light the first candle as we think about what Jesus’ coming to the world means to the world. We light the second candle to show that through Jesus, God came to dwell among and is present with us even now.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE 82**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*) from Psalm 51

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

A time of quiet, personal confession.

In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer, and forgive us.

Amen.

* **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

***All:* In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

* **SUNG RESPONSE**

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

* **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

***All:* And also with you.**

You are invited to share words and signs of greeting and reconciliation.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Gray Norsworthy

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“The King Shall Come”

Gilbert Martin

* **SUNG RESPONSE**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION 88**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

Pew Bible, pg. 34 NT

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

“Be Prepared to Stop”

Rev. Dr. Gray Norsworthy

* **HYMN OF SERVICE 100**

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

“Lift Up Your Heads!”

arr. Paul Fey

* Please stand as you are able.

*The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God
and in celebration of the 45th Wedding Anniversary of Gail & Bruce Logue.*

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, **we welcome you to Northwest**, with the hope that this service of worship will be for you an experience of real communion with God and God's children. If you have not found a church home in Atlanta, we hope you will consider joining with us in worship, study, fellowship, and service. There is a place for you here in which you can both give and receive. ***Come join us!***

The Ministers

All of the Members of the Northwest Presbyterian Congregation

The Session

Class of 2024

Ellen Carrington, *E*
Chad Fleming, *W*
Ed Milton, *W*
Cindy Upchurch, *E*

C=Connections
W=Worship

Class of 2025

Lisa Bacorn, *C*
Anne McClatchey, *C*
Kaye Mulkeen, *C*
Rick Thompson, *W*

E=Education
Ca=Congregational Care

Class of 2026

Jason Amos, *E*
Betty Bates, *Ca*
Craig Camp, *S*
Brian Moye, *S*

S=Stewardship & Mission
**=Team Leader*

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Gray Norsworthy
Clerk: Ezra Jones
Treasurer: Karen Taylor

The Staff


Rev. Dr. Gray Norsworthy, Interim Pastor
A.J. Shortley, Director of Youth, Young Adult & Community Outreach
Clinton Smith, Director of Music & Organist
Scott Mize, Director of Operations

Music used by Permission. CCLI License #2547383.
Permission to perform and stream the music in this service obtained from
CCLI Streaming License # 20025183
CCS WORSHIPcast License #8023. All rights reserved.



Northwest Presbyterian Church
4300 Northside Drive, NW Atlanta, GA 30327
404-237-5539 • www.nwpcatlanta.org





Northwest Presbyterian Church

December 10, 2023—Second Sunday of Advent

Weekly Schedule of Events

Sunday School—9:15am

Adult Bible Class—In the Youth Lodge & Journey Class—In the Session Room

Children's Morning Fellowship—Children's Building Room 2 for crafts, games & music.

Sunday Worship—10:30am

In person and available on our YouTube Channel

Congregational Meeting Immediately after Worship

Northwest Youth—5:00pm

White Elephant Christmas Party in the Lodge. Contact AJ for more details.

Women's Bible Study—Wednesday at 9:30am

Meeting on Zoom.

Men's Bible Study—Wednesday at 10:00am

In person and on Zoom, meeting in the Youth Lodge.

Choir Rehearsal - Wednesday at 7:00pm

Prayers

For those in need of healing:

Frank Mitchell
John Christensen
Philip Mowris
Virginia McClatchey
Sarah Lems
Debbie James
Elizabeth Lindley
Sonny Odum
Robin Bagwell
Dee Dee Teel
Charlotte Roland
Betzi Allsop

For those who have died:

Barbara Cunningham
Ken Holderread

For those in need of strength:

The Holderread family
The people of Palestine & Israel
The people of Ukraine
Rev. Robert Gamble & This Child Here
The Rev. Farouk Hammo &
Baghdad Presbyterian Church
Elmarie & Scott Parker

*To have a name placed on the prayer list, please contact the church office,
admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org or 404-237-5539.*

Upcoming Church Events

- **Caroling** on Sunday, December 17.
- **Book signing event** Sunday, January 21, 2024

Come Caroling with us on Sunday, December 17! We will meet at 2pm in Thorington Hall for rehearsal, cookies, and hot cocoa. Then go to Buckhead Nursing Center around 3pm, to carol with the residents there. We'll return to the church by about 4:15pm.

Northwest Children Will Join the Choir on December 17

Calling all children at Northwest! You are invited to join the Chancel Choir for the Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 17. You will have the opportunity to perform one of the morning's Christmas carols with the choir. Rehearsals will take place during Children's Sunday School (10:45-11:30 am) on December 3 and December 10. Then, the children will join the choir for rehearsal at 9:45am before worship on December 17 for a final run-through. Contact Ellen Carrington (ellencarrington@yahoo.com) with questions. We can't wait to hear you sing!

We are Looking for an Assistant Children's Sunday School Teacher

If you know of someone who would be interested in working with Marina in our children's Sunday school class each Sunday morning, please spread the word. We are seeking to fill the Assistant Children's Sunday School Teacher position with a warm and caring person who loves children, is familiar with the Bible, and has the gift of teaching. Contact Ellen Carrington (ellencarrington@yahoo.com) with questions or to suggest candidates.

December Birthdays

4th	Lisa Bacorn	25th	Jodi Compton
6th	Mari Doyal	26th	Mark Carman
9th	Ellen Carrington		Jake McCabe
11th	Elisabeth Dombrow		Holly Theisen Jones
12th	Liam Fondel	27th	Cora Bayer
	Deanie Quillian	29th	Kathy Booth
17th	Joe Dombrow		Berkley Glass
19th	Craig Llewellyn		Clinton Smith
	Bopene Newton	30th	Jonathan Pohl

Christmas 2023 Poinsettias

Remember your loved ones and honor your friends this Christmas with the dedication of a poinsettia. These lovely flowers will grace the sanctuary for services on Christmas Eve.

A fixed number of Poinsettias have been ordered. All proceeds beyond the cost of the plants will be used to support special Worship programs.

Poinsettias are \$20 each. Please make your reservation by scanning the QR code or completing a card on the table in the Narthex. Checks should be made payable to Northwest Presbyterian Church with Poinsettias 2023 on the memo line.

The deadline for dedications is **Tuesday, December 19 at noon.**



Your Second Chance

In case you missed out in July, the Women of Northwest have opened another window of opportunity for you to contribute to this year's **Ditty Bag** project which supports the **Bashor Central Presbyterian Night Shelter**. This shelter serves 100 homeless men per night during the winter months. These men have only what they can carry with them, so our Ditty Bags offer them a welcome relief of toiletries and warm hats, gloves, and socks while it is cold outside. As mentioned in July the cost to fill the bags has increased by over 30%. Please make a contribution this year for any amount you can, every gift helps. Please write checks to "Presbyterian Women," with "Ditty Bags" on the memo line. Checks may be placed in the collection plates or mailed to the church office. Cash contributions may be placed in an Offering envelope found in the pews, please note "Ditty Bags" on the envelope before you place it in the collection plate.

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!
The Women of Northwest

Holiday Extravaganza Volunteers Needed

The 3rd Annual Buckhead Prep Holiday Extravaganza will be on Thursday, December 14, from 4-7pm. Lucy Mulkeen will be leading the Elementary students in their holiday music program at 4pm, then students and their families will be in the Family Life Center for fun, games, and stories with Santa. We need volunteers to showcase Northwest Presbyterian to the Buckhead Prep families. We will be serving hot chocolate and cookies to an anticipated attendance of over 400. We will also need volunteers to help with greeting and ushering. Please contact Kaye Mulkeen, 404-680-6630 or mulkeenk@bellsouth.net, if you are able to volunteer.

52 Club - Support Northwest Youth Mission

Please support the mission outreach of the Northwest Youth by donating \$1 per week, or \$52 annually, designated for the "52 Club." Even with this small individual amount, if everyone contributes our youth can do amazing things in our community!

Sanctuary Flowers

A gift of flowers is a wonderful way to commemorate a birthday, wedding, anniversary, memorial, or any other occasion. Each week there is an opportunity to honor or give thanks for a loved one with flowers. We invite you to make a donation to decorate our worship space.

Email admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org, or call 404-237-5539 to reserve your dedication.

Submit Announcements to admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org

*Submissions are due by noon on Thursday the week before publication of the newsletters. Submissions received after the deadline will be included in the following week's publications.

Spiritual Formation

Children's Morning Fellowship, 9:15-10:15am: Led by Sunday school teacher Marina Greiner, children will gather for games, crafts, and music. Location: Children's Building, Room 2

Children's Sunday School, 10:45-11:30am: Immediately following the *Time With Young Disciples* in the morning worship service, children between the ages of 4 years old and 5th grade will be led to the Children's Building by Sunday school teacher Marina Greiner for their weekly lesson from *Growing in Grace and Gratitude*, important Bible stories that will encourage our children to grow into God's love and live as expressions of God's grace. Location: Children's Building, Room 2.

Nursery Care: The Northwest Nursery is located in Room 1 of the Children's Building. The nursery opens each Sunday morning from 9:00 to 11:45am, or at the conclusion of any after-church event. Children who are newborn through age 3 are welcome to attend the nursery where our professional nursery workers provide tender loving care. Parents, please bring diapers and a change of clothes and any medications needed (Epipen). Please do not bring foods containing nuts.

The **Adult Sunday School classes** will meet from 9:15-10:15am:

Adult Bible Class: This class will be co-led by Gray Norsworthy and AJ Shortley and will center its study on the gospel of John. The study will work through John's gospel focusing on a passage of scripture each week. There will be plenty of discussion and knowledge of the Bible is not a requirement.

Journey Class: This class explores a wide variety of topics and issues throughout the year in a series format. **Series 4: November 26, December 3, 10, 17 - The Case for Christmas: Evidence for the Identity of Jesus.** In this video Bible study, journalist Lee Strobel reveals what he discovered as he sought to separate the holiday of Christmas from the holy day, the facts from the fantasy, and the truth from the tradition. Participants will explore the following questions related to the Christmas story: *What does the Bible actually say about Jesus' birth and how can you know that it is accurate? Did the Christmas story truly occur or was it just developed from legends? Was Jesus really born from a woman who was a virgin and why is this important? Did only Jesus fulfill dozens of biblical prophecies about the Messiah?* The study will invite you to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the evidence for yourself, and consider why Christmas really matters. Facilitator: Ellen Carrington

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 9:30am via Zoom. The first study for the year will be the book of Hebrews. We will use the LifeChange study guide (available on Amazon) to facilitate our discussions. Contact Anneke Woodward or Lynne Schlosberg for additional information. New participants welcome!

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Group is beginning a 6 week series focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We will be reading through a short book that covers many aspects of the history and present of the tension in this region. The book is called "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Beginner's Guide to Objective Understanding through a Fact-Based Journey from Past to Present" by Peter Schwartzman. The group meets each Wednesday morning at 10:00am in the Youth Lodge, and online through Zoom. Contact AJ Shortley for Zoom access or more information, aj@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org

Sermon Guide
Be Prepared to Stop
December 10, 2023

Mark 1:1-8, NRSV

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

*“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,*

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

*‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,’ ”*

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

1. Be prepared to stop at certain moments in life
2. Sometimes life is what happens between the items on our lists
3. Repentance means to think and act differently so we can head back in the right direction
4. Confession of sin involves ourselves, others, and God
5. Confession of sin opens us up to Christ's presence anew

The Offertory Anthem

"The King Shall Come"

Gilbert Martin

The King shall come

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;

When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy a wakes.

The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past;

O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e're shall last.

*Not as of old, a little child, to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.*

*Then let the endless day begin, by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.*

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings:

Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray,

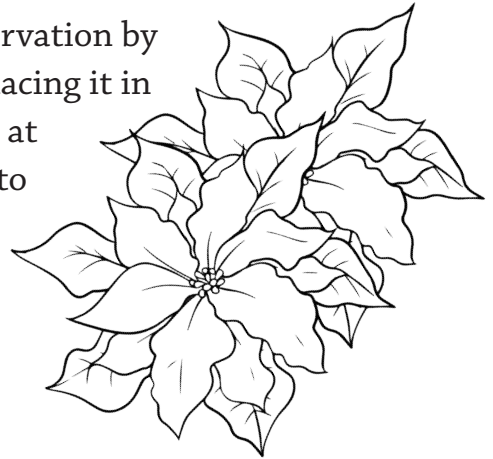
come quickly, King of Kings!

Christmas 2023 Poinsettias

Remember your loved ones and honor your friends this Christmas with the dedication of a poinsettia. These lovely flowers will grace the sanctuary for services on Christmas Eve.

A fixed number of Poinsettias have been ordered. All proceeds beyond the cost of the plants will be used to support special Worship programs.

Poinsettias are \$20 each. Please make your reservation by completing the lower section of this page and placing it in the offering plate, or by calling the church office at 404-237-5539. Checks should be made payable to Northwest Presbyterian Church and marked for Poinsettias 2023.



The deadline for dedications is
Tuesday, December 19 at noon.

Number of Poinsettias you wish to order: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____
(circle one)

In Memory/Honor of: _____
(circle one)

In Memory/Honor of: _____
(circle one)

In Memory/Honor of: _____
(circle one)

Given by: _____

(Please list all entries as you would like them printed.)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

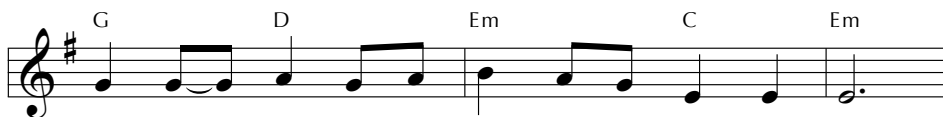
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.

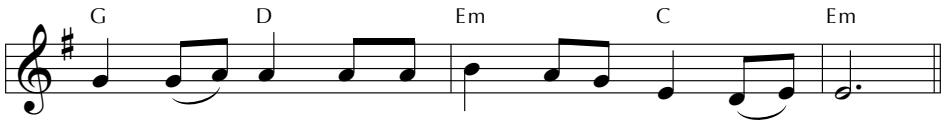


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

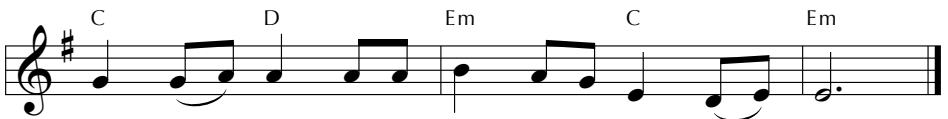
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.