



New Life Presbyterian Church

Welcome to New Life Presbyterian Church

Dear Visitor,

Welcome! It is a joy and privilege to gather this morning to worship God together. Here at New Life, we are a small part of the worldwide, multi-ethnic, multi-generational, multi-cultural body of Christ. Although we are Presbyterian and Reformed, our identity is found not in what makes us distinct, but in what makes us united: we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not only our Maker; He is our Savior. If you have put your hope and trust in Him, we welcome you as a brother or sister. It is in Him that we have New Life!

If you are here this morning and do not know what you think about Jesus, or about the claims of the Bible, we are delighted that you have chosen to join us for the morning. We hope and trust that you will experience a warm welcome, regardless of your religious convictions. We are a community of those who have experienced the embrace of God, through Jesus Christ. It is our goal to show that love to all who are around us. Please know that I personally would welcome your thoughts and perspectives on anything you observe this morning.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all!

Joyfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erik Swanson".

Pastor Erik Swanson

P.S. There is a staffed nursery, off the fellowship hall, for children ages 0-4.

Worshiping God

December 20, 2020

Reflection:

“You cannot put straight in others what is warped in yourself.”

– Attributed to Athanasius

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

– The apostle John

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Erik Swanson

Call to Worship – From Luke 1 (The Song of Zechariah)

Minister: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel.

*People: **He has come and redeemed his people.***

Minister: He has raised up a strong arm of salvation for us.

*People: **Through the house of his servant David, he has saved us from all our enemies.***

Minister: He has remembered his covenant with Abraham, and enabled us to serve him without fear,

*People: **To serve him in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.***

Minister: He has saved us through His Son, Christ the Lord.

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

Prayer of Praise

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

D
A7 D G A

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

D

King. Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him
 ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

A

room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

D
D/A A7 D

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,



Fourth Sunday of Advent – Mark Flaharty

*Reader: Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of **HOPE, PEACE, and JOY**. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of **LOVE**. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. In the Book of Deuteronomy, we find these words: “For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”—Deuteronomy 10:17-19a*

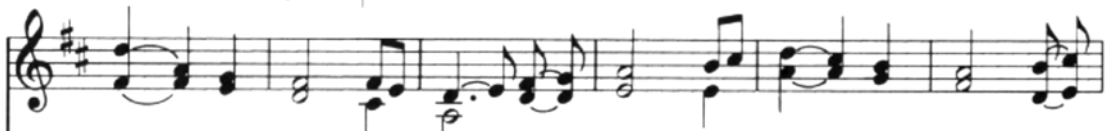
From the Gospel of John we hear: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
—John 13:34-35

Let us pray:

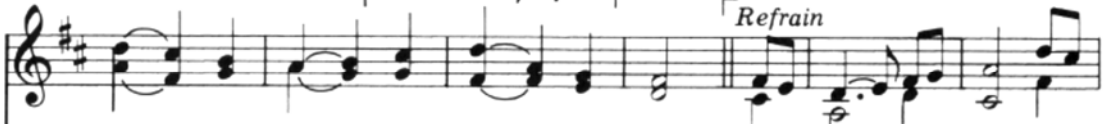
All: Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ’s footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. Amen.



1. The first No - el, the an-gel did say, Was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing in the east, be-
 3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from
 4. This star drew nigh to the north-west, O'er Beth - le - hem it
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - 'rent - ly up -
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es to our



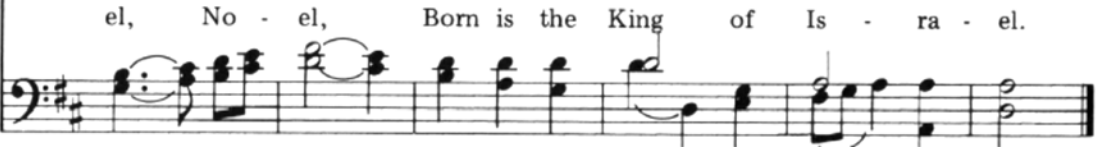
fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a
 yond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And
 coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in - tent, And to
 took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right
 on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres - ence Their
 heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And



cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 with His blood man - kind hath bought.



el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment

Offering Our Gifts

The offering allows friends and members of our church to express their faith in God's Word, and to support the extension of that Word in our community and world.

"Yet Not I" by City Alight - Summer and Lily Hare

*What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and
freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and
boundless peace.*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all
is mine
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

*The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
For by my side, the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.*

*To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend
me;
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall
overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

*No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid:
For Jesus bled and suffered for my
pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the
grave.*

*To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released. I can sing: I
am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

*With every breath, I long to follow Jesus.
For He has said that He will bring me
home.
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips
shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

Doxology

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.

Scripture Reading – John 1:1-18 (with a focus on John 1:14-18)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Sermon Notes

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

New Life Church invites all baptized Christians who are members of Christ's church to join us in this feast of bread and wine.

The inner circle of cups contains red wine and the outer circle of cups contains white grape juice.

If you are unable to consume wheat, gluten free crackers are available.

If you wish to participate in the Lord's Supper but mobility is limited, kindly let Pastor Erik or one of the elders know. They are happy to serve you in the pew.

Prayer

Words of Institution – From I Corinthians 11

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

**All: Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

Communing Together

Allowing space for other family units, please come up front to take communion. After you have been served the bread and wine, please partake and dispose of the communion cup prior to returning to your seat. Use the extra time during communion as a time for prayer and reflection.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Joy Has Dawned

Words and Music by
Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

VERSE

E \flat Fm E \flat /G A \flat B \flat Cm Fm⁷

1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre -
 2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of
 3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the
 4. Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a

4 E \flat /B \flat B \flat E \flat Fm E \flat /G A \flat B \flat Cm A \flat

-a - tion: God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry
 an - gels; As the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a
 glo - ry; Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the
 ran - som, rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ our might - y

8 B \flat E \flat E \flat /G A \flat E \flat /G Fm⁷ B \flat Cm Fm⁷

na - tion. Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of
 sta - ble. Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in
 sto - ry. Gold, a King is born to - day; In - cense, God is
 Cham - pi - on! What a Sav - ior, what a Friend, what a glo - rious

12 Eb/Bb Bb Eb Fm Eb/G Ab Bb Cm7 Fm7

glo - ry, but a hum - ble gift of love: Je - sus born of
 dark - ness. Cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and
 with us; Myrrh. His death will make a way, by His blood He'll
 mys - ter - y: Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of

16 Bb Eb Fm Eb/G Ab Eb

Mar - y. help - less. win us. his - to - ry.

Benediction – Luke 2:14

*Leader: “Glory to God in the highest,
 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

The Sending

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

*All songs are either public domain or licensed under CCLI #2410623.

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun, 12/20	9:00 AM	Worship Service (Masks Required)	Sanctuary
Sun, 12/20	10:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages	New Life
Sun, 12/20	11:00 AM	Worship Service (Masks Requested)	Sanctuary
Sun, 12/20	6:00 PM	Cookies and Carols	New Life
W, 12/23	9:00 AM	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Sanctuary
W, 12/23	9:00 AM	Prayer Small Group	New Life
Th, 12/24	6:30 PM	Lessons and Carols Service	Sanctuary
Sun, 12/27	9:00 AM	Worship Service (Masks Required)	Sanctuary
Sun, 12/27	10:00 AM	Adult Sunday School (no children/youth classes)	New Life
Sun, 12/27	11:00 AM	Worship Service (Masks Requested)	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date Offering	\$196,000	\$197,653.73
Last Week	\$4,000.00	\$6,147.00

Announcements

- ***Cookies and Carols:*** In lieu of community group, all of New Life is invited to meet at the church on Sunday, Dec 20th, at 6:00 PM, for an hour of cookies and carols.
- ***Lessons and Carols Service:*** New Life will host a brief Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve, at 6:30 PM.
- ***No Children's/Youth Sunday School on Dec 27th:*** There will not be children's/youth classes on Dec 27th. The adult Christian education class on the gospel of John will meet that day.
- ***Women's Zoom Tea:*** Join us via Zoom for a virtual tea party on Saturday January 2nd at 2PM. For more information, contact Holly Wirt at 717-916-2113 or holly_hursh@yahoo.com.
- ***Women's Winter Book Club:*** We are reading the true story of *Murder, Motherhood, and Miraculous Grace* by Debra Moerke. Join us for the discussion and dinner which will take place the end of February or early March. See Connie Kay for more details.

Ongoing Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Sunday School Classes (all ages) at 10:00 am.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary.

Wednesday Morning Mom's Group Bible Study: Studying 1 John. Contact Joy Swanson.

Men's Group: Meeting at New Life on the second and fourth Saturdays at 7:00AM. We are discussing a number of male characters from the Bible. Contact Rob Rothermel.

Women's Bible Study: A new study (topic to be determined) for the spring session will begin in March. For suggestions or questions, please contact Marlene Spark.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for more information.

Prayer Small Group: Meets every other Wednesday 9:00AM at New Life. Contact Sue Rothermel.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Currently meeting via Zoom on Thursday evenings beginning 6:55, we are studying Genesis. Contact Joe Heidler.

Discipleship Groups: These are same-gender groups that meet to encourage each other to follow Jesus as we walk with each other. Please contact Pastor Erik to join a group.

Community Group: These are a microcosm of the church. They are intergenerational and inclusive of men and women and boys and girls. Whatever age or stage of life you find yourself in, you are welcomed in a community group. Food, fellowship, discussion of the Scriptures, and prayer are all elements of community groups. At the moment our one group meets on the first and third Sundays, at the Swanson's, from 6:00-7:30.

New Life Presbyterian Church Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Vision: *To see York and beyond embrace God's beauty and extend God's love.*

Mission: *To receive the grace of God, to give the glory to God,
and to follow the Word of God.*

Core Values:

- **His Voice:** While God speaks through creation, God speaks directly in the Word of God. Therefore, we receive and obey God's Word.
- **His Plan:** Because God is love, God is on a mission to save. We seek to follow Him in His mission.
- **His Grace:** The good news for sinners is that Jesus saves, by grace. Through faith we believe in Christ and grow in Christ.
- **His Power:** Only God has power to save and sustain His people. We depend on the Holy Spirit.
- **His People:** In Christ, the church is made one. In the midst of both unity and diversity, we must love one another.
- **His Gifts:** Creation, redemption, and the ability to serve are all gifts from God. The entire church should be equipped and empowered to serve gratefully.
- **His Timing:** All things are in God's hands. Therefore, we trust in His ways.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.newlifeyorkpca.com/about-us.html>

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