



NEW LIFE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

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,



Pastor Erik Swanson

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

Worshiping God

April 25, 2021

Reflection:

“ ‘I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me, for who would dare of himself to approach me?’ declares the LORD.” -- the Prophet Jeremiah

“He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” -- the Pastor who wrote Hebrews

Welcome and Announcements

Erik Swanson

Call to Worship – Psalm 150

Wayne Blanding

*Leader: Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.*

*People: **Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.***

*Leader: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,*

*People: **Praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and flute,***

*Leader: Praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.*

*People: **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.***

Prayer of Praise

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time;

hark! how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:

a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 his reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me:

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flow'rs of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Graves Into Gardens

Verse 1

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
are never enough.
Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied, here in
Your love.

Chorus

Oh there's nothing better than You;
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing,
Nothing is better than You.

Verse 2

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness,
My failures and flaws.
Lord, You've seen them all,
And You still call me friend;
'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley
And there's not a place
Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

Bridge

You turn mourning to dancing;
You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory;
You're the only one who can.

Bridge

You turn graves into gardens;
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways;
You're the only one who can.

Confession of Faith – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Scripture Reading – Genesis 14:14-20

Joy Swanson

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: O Lord, we want to enter your presence, worshipping you face-to-face; awed by your majesty, greatness, and glory, yet encouraged by your love.

All: Yet there is a coldness in our hearts, a hardness toward you, an unwillingness to admit our sin and need for you. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us, until Christ reigns supreme within us in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies our hearts, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Grace – 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Behold Our God

Verse 1

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice;
All creation rises to rejoice.

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne;
Come let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare;
Come let us adore Him.

Verse 2

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?

Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Verse 3

Who has felt the nails upon His hand,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal humbled to the grave,
Jesus Savior risen now to reign.

Bridge

You will reign forever!
(Let Your glory fill the earth!)
(REPEAT 6X)
You will reign forever!
(Let Your glory fill!)

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 in the world.

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 – *Hebrews 7*

¹For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ²and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

⁴See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. ⁶But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

¹¹Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? ¹²For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. ¹³For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served

at the altar. ¹⁴For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

¹⁵This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷For it is witnessed of him,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

¹⁸For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

²⁰And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, ²¹but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
‘You are a priest forever.’”

²²This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

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

Shout To The Lord

Verse

My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You.

Chorus

Shout to the Lord,
All the earth, let us sing:
Power and majesty,
Praise to the King.
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands;
Forever I'll love You;
Forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You.

Benediction – Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Sending:

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 4/25	9:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages	New Life
Sun 4/25	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun 4/25	11:30 AM	Local Missions Meeting	Sanctuary
Sun 4/25	3:00 PM	Community Hike and Picnic	Kelly's Run
Tues 4/27	8:00 PM	Hospitality Team Meeting	Zoom
W 4/28	7:00 AM	Men's Group	Fellowship Hall
W 4/28	9:00 AM	Mom's Group	Fellowship Hall
W 4/28	9:00 AM	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Sanctuary
W 4/28	9:00 AM	Prayer Small Group	New Life
W 4/28	5:30 PM	Parenting Seminar / Kids' Honor Club	New Life
W 4/28	7:00 PM	Women's Bible Study	Fishbowl Room
W 4/28	7:00 PM	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th 4/29	9:00 AM	Women's Zoom Bible Study	Zoom
Th 4/29	6:55 PM	Bible Study Fellowship	Zoom
F 4/30	7:30 PM	Free Movie: <i>How To Train Your Dragon</i>	New Life Lawn
(Sat 5/1)	(7:30 PM)	(Rain Date for Movie)	(New Life Lawn)
Sun 5/2	9:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages	New Life
Sun 5/2	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date Offering	\$65,230.72	\$70,707.80
Week of 4/18	\$4,076.92	\$3,764.00

Announcements

- **Treasurer Transition:** New Life is grateful for Eileen's service as our treasurer. As the Palmers prepare to move closer to family, Eileen will be stepping out of that volunteer position. Barry Francisco has graciously agreed to assume the role. We thank Eileen for a job well done, and we are grateful for Barry's willingness to serve in this role.
- **Cleaning Team Help Needed:** Please contact Steve Harman if you are willing to help clean the church once every 4-5 weeks. It takes about 2 hours.
- **Local Missions Meeting:** Anyone interested in the Servants (Faith Beyond the Pews Work Camp) local missions trip this year is invited to attend a meeting in the sanctuary after church today.
- **Community Hike and Picnic, April 25th, 3:00 PM:** Interested in an afternoon hike? Please join Blaine and Barbara Marsh for a 3.7-mile round trip hike at Kelly's Run Nature Preserve, on the east bank of the Susquehanna. Printed directions are available in the information center. Meet there in the parking lot at 3:00 PM today.
- **Hospitality Team:** Interested in serving on the hospitality team? Join the discussion as we talk, plan, and pray about what things will look like this side of the novel coronavirus. We will have two zoom meetings (April 27th; May 18th) on Tuesdays at 8:00 PM. Please email kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com if you'd like the link emailed to you. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81895830807?pwd=ckpvSVQ4akkvZTk4TVdINXNucG1FUT09>
- **Free Family-Friendly Movie Night:** We'll show *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* for New Life and our community at large on Friday April 30 at 7:30PM! Snacks and drinks provided.
- **Attention SILVERS:** Experience chalk talk, "A Glimpse of Heaven," presented by Elva Hurst on Saturday May 22 at 11 AM. Cost is \$12/person. Meet at the church at 9:30 AM for carpooling. Those who wish may also join us at a local restaurant after the event. Please sign up if you expect to attend the event and/or restaurant. The brochure is on the hall table. Last date to sign up is Sunday May 9.

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- **Women's Day-Retreat:** Trinity Presbyterian Church has graciously invited any women from the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery to their one-day retreat on Saturday May 22 from 9am-2pm at Trinity PCA, 6098 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109. The topic is *Living with Hope in a World of Despair*. The cost is \$10 and includes a boxed lunch from Panera. Registration forms are available in the entryway. Please submit forms and money to Holly Wirt by May 9 and also let her know if you will need a ride. Please note that masks are required for this event.
- **New Members' Class:** If anyone is interested in a new members' class, please contact Pastor Erik.
- **Prayer for the Muslim World:** Please join our congregation in prayer for those celebrating the Ramadan month of fasting, from April 12 through May 12. To guide your prayers, two resources are available. First, The Mission Committee is providing booklets from Worldchristian.com, which will be available on the information table. There are adult and child versions. If you prefer an on-line resource, please go to prayercast.com/love-muslims-landing.html and sign up for their prayer guide. You will receive a daily video which includes testimonies and information on various Muslim communities. Both resources provide information on daily topics, and guidance for prayer. Two of our supported missionaries serve with Muslims directly, and two more indirectly. More Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus at this time than in any other time in the 14 centuries since the inception of Islam. Please pray!

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 Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Morning Moms' Group: This group gathers to study Larry Crabb's book, *Connecting*. We sense our need for connection more than ever during this COVID time. Come learn God's vision for the people in His body to connect to Him and one another. Classes for children as well. Contact Joy Swanson.

Men's Group: Men meet at New Life every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 AM. We are discussing a number of male characters from the Bible. Contact Rob Rothermel.

Women's Bible Study: Both women's Bible study group are studying the book, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*. The in-person group meets Wednesday at the church from 7:00-8:30 PM. The Zoom group meets Thursdays from 9:00-10:30 AM. Contact Marlene Spark for more details.

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

Prayer Small Group: This group meets at New Life on alternate Wednesdays, beginning at 9:00 AM. 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: 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 Groups: These microcosms of the church are intergeneration gatherings of men, women, and children. Whatever age or stage of life you find yourself in, you are welcome in a community group. Come to the Swanson's home to enjoy food, fellowship, a discussion of the Scriptures, and prayer. This group meets on the first and third Sundays from 6:00-7:30 PM.

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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