



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

July 25, 2021

Reflection:

“Unbelief doesn’t see God as the ultimate good. So it can’t see sin as the ultimate evil. It instead sees sin as a good thing and thus God’s commands as a stumbling block to joy. In believing the devil, I didn’t need a pentagram pendant to wear, neither did I need to memorize a hex or two. All I had to do was trust myself more than God’s Word. I had to believe that my thoughts, my affections, my rights, my wishes, were worthy of absolute obedience and that in laying prostrate before the flimsy throne I’d made for myself, that I’d be doing a good thing.” – Jackie Hill Perry

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” – Revelation 21

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Call to Worship – from Psalm 146

Wayne Blanding

Minister: Let us praise the Lord from the depths of our hearts. Let us sing praise to God as long as we live.

People: Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God, the maker of the earth, the skies, the sea and everything in them.

Minister: The Lord remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

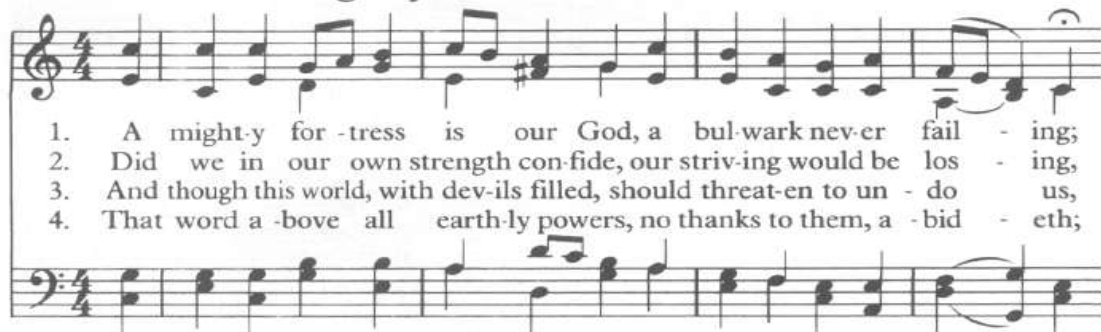
People: The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.

Minister: The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

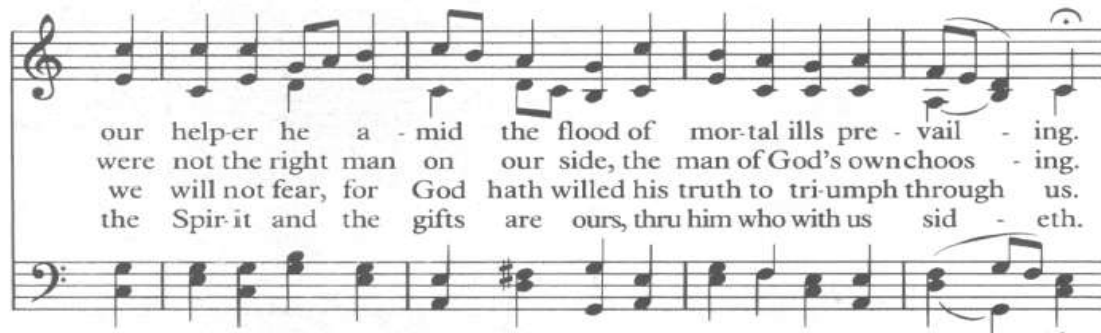
People: The Lord reigns forever. Let us praise the Lord!

Prayer of Praise

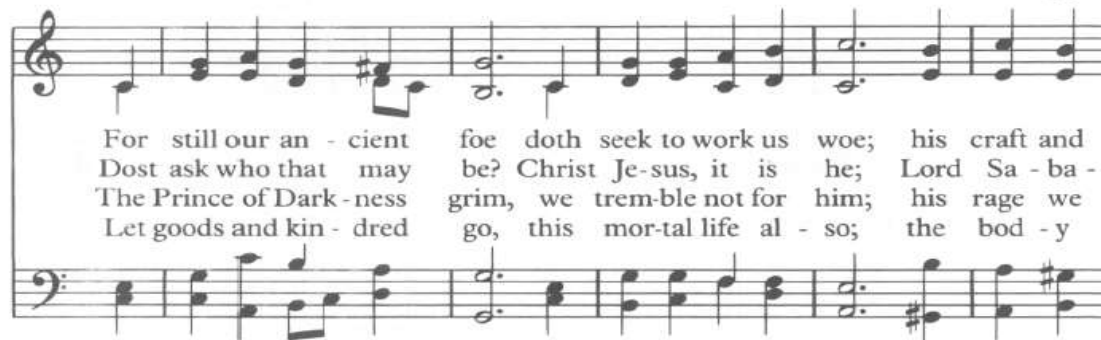
A Mighty Fortress



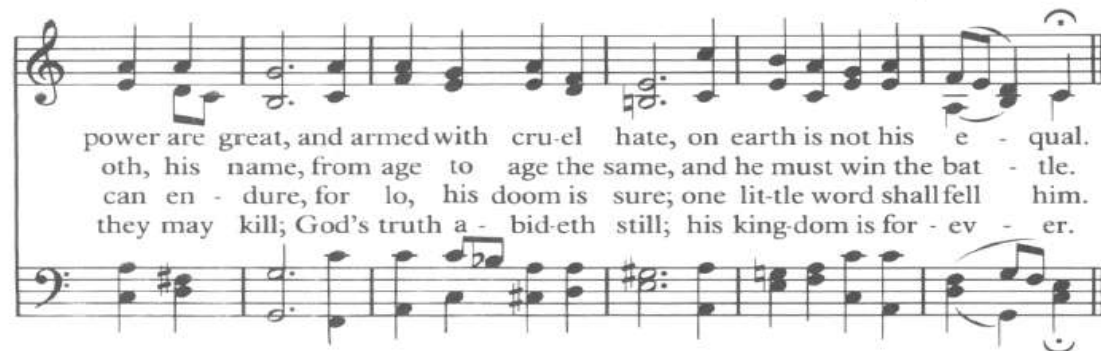
1. A might-y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev-er fail - ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los - ing,
3. And though this world, with dev-ils filled, should threat-en to un - do us,
4. That word a -bove all earth-ly powers, no thanks to them, a -bid - eth;



our help-er he a - mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre - vail - ing.
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos - ing.
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
the Spir-it and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sid - eth.



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba -
The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we trem-ble not for him; his rage we
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor-tal life al - so; the bod - y



power are great, and armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
oth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
can en - dure, for lo, his doom is sure; one lit-tle word shall fell him.
they may kill; God's truth a - bid-eth still; his king-dom is for - ev - er.

Ancient of Days

Jamie Harvill and Gary Sadler



Affirmation of Faith – *Colossians 1:15-20*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Scripture Reading – *Revelation 21:1-8*

Will Pope

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession:

Pardon our sins, merciful Lord. We have been hasty and short in prayer, and this first sin of the day leads to so many others. Keep us from robbing you of the true worship which your glory requires and which our hearts so urgently need. Wipe out our sins, known and unknown, felt and unfelt, remembered and forgotten. Enable us to remember the blood that cleanses from all sin, and the grace which overwhelms all evil, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – *Psalms 32:1-2, 5*

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

King of Kings

Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting,
Without hope, without light,
Till from Heaven You came running -
There was mercy in Your eyes.

To fulfil the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

Chorus

Praise the Father,
Praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of Glory,
Majesty,
Praise forever to the King of kings.

Verse 2

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross.

For even in Your suffering,
You saw to the other side;
Knowing this was our salvation,
Jesus, for our sake You died.

Verse 3

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good,
For the Lamb had conquered death.

And the dead rose from their tombs,
And the angels stood in awe,
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.

Verse 4

And the Church of Christ was born,
Then the Spirit lit the flame;
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.

By His blood and in His Name,
In His freedom I am free;
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me.

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 12:18-29*

¹⁸For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire.

Sermon: An Unshakable Hope

Series: Jesus Is Better

Pastor Erik Swanson

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 1 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

Only a Holy God

Verse 1

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles? -
Only a Holy God.

Verse 2

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice? -
Only a Holy God.

Chorus

Come and behold Him,
The One and the Only;
Cry out, sing *Holy*,
Forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

Verse 3

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated? -
Only a Holy God.

Verse 4

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father? -
Only a Holy God;
Only my Holy God.

Benediction – Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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 7/25	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School	Sanctuary
Sun 7/25	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
W 7/28	8:00 AM	Men's Group	Bubble Room 2
W 7/28	9:00 AM	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Sanctuary
W 7/28	9:00 AM	Prayer Group	Library
W 7/28	10:30 AM	Moms' Group	See page 15
W 7/28	7:00 PM	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun 8/1	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School	Sanctuary
Sun 8/1	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date Offering	\$118,230.68	\$122,621.80
Week of 7/18	\$4,076.92	\$3,150.00

Announcements

- **RUF-International Penn State ~ Pedals for a Purpose 2021:** This program was such a success in 2020 as an outreach to international students that Richard Smith is planning it again. If you have any good used bikes to donate please **contact Marlene Spark** at 717-676-8385 for pick-up/delivery arrangements. Please note that RUF will be able to perform minor maintenance (tires, chains), but nothing major (wheels, gear cables). Monetary donations are also welcome! The bikes are needed by the end of July, so respond soon!
- **Missionary Report in Sunday School:** One of our missionaries will be at New Life on Sunday, August 1st. Please come to this special Sunday school class at 9:00 AM to hear an update on the ministry.
- **CEF 5-Day Club:** Mark your calendars for August 2nd-6th, 9:30-11:30 AM, for a Children's Evangelism Fellowship 5-Day Club at New Life. Help is needed for the second hour to provide crafts, snack, and activities.
- **Women's Book Club:** This summer, we are reading *A Change of Affection* by Beckett Cook. On Saturday, August 21st at 9:30 AM, we will meet at the home of Marlene Spark for brunch and discussion. Please bring a dish to share if you can, otherwise just bring yourself! Please pass this information on to anyone who read the book and would like to join us. Contact Marlene at 717-676-8385 for more details.
- **SILVERS:** Join us on Saturday, August 21st at 6:00 PM for juicy, mouth-watering peach treats. Save the date, sign up now and plan to prepare your favorite peach recipe – salads, main dishes, desserts, or beverages.
- **2nd Annual Fall Camping Trip** will be at Codorus State Park from Thursday, September 9th through Sunday, September 12th. Come when you can; leave when you need to. Book ASAP: if you want electric sites, book as close as possible to sites 87, 89, 90, 91, and 94; if you want non-electric, book as close as possible to 140-142 or 84-86. All of New Life is invited for a 6:00 PM potluck dinner on Saturday, September 11th.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Sunday School Class is offered for adults at 9:00 AM. (Children and youth are on break for the summer.)

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Anyone interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text is welcome to join us at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Morning Moms' Group: We are meeting at a pool this summer. Bring your snack or lunch and join us at 10:30 on Wednesday mornings for fun in the pool and prayer time together. Contact Joy Swanson at 717-501-6083 for location and more information.

Men's Group: Men meet at New Life every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 8:00 AM. We are discussing a number of male characters from the Bible. Contact Rob Rothermel at rrothe01@gmail.com.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information at kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com.

Prayer Small Group: Anyone wishing to join us in prayer is welcome here at New Life on alternate Wednesdays, beginning at 9:00 AM. Contact Sue Rothermel at rothermelfam@gmail.com.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) resumes in September. We will study the book of Matthew. Sign up online at bsfinternational.org. Contact Joe Heidler at jvheidler@comcast.net with questions.

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

Community Group is designed to be a microcosm of the church. It is an intergenerational gathering of men, women, and children; whatever age or stage of life you find yourself in, you are welcome. Currently our one group meets at the Swanson's home (usually on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM) to enjoy food, fellowship, a discussion of the Scriptures, and prayer.

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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