



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 black ink that reads "Erik Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Erik Swanson

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

Worshipping God

December 12, 2021

Reflection:

Have you reduced the Lord Jesus to a safe, containable, predictable Savior who pitches in and helps out your otherwise smoothly running existence? Have you treated what is spiritually nuclear as a double-A battery? Might one reason we stall out in our growth in Christ be that we have unwittingly domesticated the expansive authority and rule of Jesus Christ over all things? Might we be lacking an appropriate fear of, wonder at, trembling before, the Lord Jesus, the real Jesus who will one day silence the raging of the nations with a moment's whisper? – Dane Ortland

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – *adapted from Philippians 4*

Pastor Erik Swanson

Minister: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Prayer of Praise

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.

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Verse 1

In the bleak mid-winter,
All creation groans
For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone.
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne.

Chorus

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a Child is born,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

Verse 2

If I were a wise man,
I would travel far;
If I were a shepherd
I would do my part.
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart.

Bridge

Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies,
This baby born for sacrifice,
Christ the Messiah.
Into our hopes, into our fears
The Savior of the world appears.
The promise of eternal years,
Christ the Messiah.

Reader: The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for **rejoice**, and this Sunday is the time for us to rejoice because Jesus came and died so that we may live forever with him! The tradition includes lighting a pink candle that is a symbol of **joy**. We read, pray, and reflect on the joy of God's which was foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ. We also meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

Three Candles Lit

Reader: Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days.

The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses.

Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy!

The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon,
as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon.

There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God.

With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands,
and encourage those who have weak knees.

Say to those with fearful hearts,

"Be strong, and do not fear,

for your God is coming to destroy your enemies.

He is coming to save you."

And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf.

The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!

Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland...

Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness. - Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

All: Psalm 51:12 says, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit." Lord, would you restore the joy of our salvation? Help us to be willing to follow you with all we have. As we read the Scriptures that remind us who you are and the ways you love us, ignite in us a sense of joy that overflows out of our hearts! Let this holy joy be contagious and spill over onto the lives of those around us. May your peace that surpasses all understanding be upon us...especially as we're wrapping up a year that has felt very scary and uncertain. Encourage our hearts with the knowledge that with *you* we can live in your perfect peace, no matter our circumstances. We thank you for the joy and peace you give! Amen.

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in
 3. This Flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - ery -

sung. It came, a Flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and

cold of win - ter When half - spent was the night.
 men a Sav - ior When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - ery load.

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.

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Scripture Reading – *Isaiah 8:11-9:7*

¹¹ For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: ¹² “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. ¹³ But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. ¹⁴ And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.”

¹⁶ Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples. ¹⁷ I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. ¹⁸ Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. ¹⁹ And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰ To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. ²¹ They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. ²² And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

⁹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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*

Minister: 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 to the World

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

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

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

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n 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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Benediction – Luke 2:14

“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

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This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 12/12	9:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms + Fishbowls
Sun 12/12	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun 12/12	11:45 AM	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
Sun 12/12	12:00 PM	Second Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Tu 12/14	7:00 PM	Bible Study Fellowship	New Life and/or Zoom
W 12/15	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Study	TV Room
W 12/15	7:00 PM	Music team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sat 12/18	3:00 PM	Open House Christmas Party	Swanson Home
Sun 12/19	9:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms + Fishbowls
Sun 12/19	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun 12/19	11:45 AM	Christianity Explored Planning Meeting	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date Offering	\$199,769.08	\$198,789.15
Week of 12/5	\$4,076.92	\$5,880.00

Announcements

- **Congregational Meeting:** Please attend the congregational meeting today at 11:45am. The only item on the agenda is for the congregation to discuss and then vote on Willard Pope as an elder candidate. Only members may join the discussion and voting; regular attenders and visitors are more than welcome to be present!
- **Advent at New Life:**
Advent Reading Guides: Individuals and families are invited to stop at the information table to pick up guides for advent readings.
Open House Christmas Party at the Swansons': NLPC is invited to stop in at the Swansons' (55 Blueberry Lane, Red Lion) from 3pm-8pm on Sat. 12/18. There will be a white elephant gift exchange at 4:30, and we will sing Christmas carols at 7:00.
Christmas Eve Service: A "Lessons and Carols" service will be held on Christmas eve at 7pm.
- **Christianity Explored Dinner and Discussion:** Advent and Christmas focus on the good news: Jesus came to seek and save! Please prayerfully consider whom you can invite to join you in a bible study of Mark called "Christianity Explored". This outreach-focused study will explore the fundamentals of Christianity: Jesus' identity, mission, and call. This study is geared for the person willing to consider the claims of Christianity. If interested, contact Pastor Erik and please consider joining a planning meeting on Sun. 12/19 at 11:45. The hope is to have enough interest to offer this class starting some time mid-Jan. The class will meet for dinner and discussion. A host family who is willing to provide dinner for 8 weeks is needed.
- **Short Term Missions Opportunities in 2022:** Interested in the possibility of a short-term missions trip? Join the conversation on Sun. 1/9 at 11:45. Meet in one of the fishbowl rooms.
- **SILVERS:** Save the date for a SILVERS movie night on Sat. 1/15. Mark your calendar and watch for more details in next week's bulletin.
- **Men's Book Discussion:** The early winter activity for the men of the church is reading and discussing "Live Not by Lies," by Rod Dreher. We will discuss part two on Sun. 1/23 at 7:30pm.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Sunday School Class is offered for all ages at 9am.

Women's Bible Study: Contact Marlene Spark (717-428-3827) for details.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Anyone interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text is welcome to join us at 9am here at New Life.

Moms' Group: Meets at the church from 9:00-11:00am on Wednesdays and is studying the book of *James*. The children are welcome in the nursery/preschool class, the elementary school class, or study hall.

Men's Group: Meets at New Life every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 8:00-9:00am. Currently we are discussing *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Contact Rob Rothermel at rrothe01@gmail.com for details.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: Join us in prayer at New Life on alternate Wednesdays, beginning at 9:00 AM. Contact Sue Rothermel at rothermelfam@gmail.com.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Meets Tuesdays at 7pm at New Life and studies the book of Matthew via Zoom. 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 6:00-7:30pm) 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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