



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,



Pastor Erik Swanson

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

Worshiping God

December 19, 2021

Reflection:

“God has assuredly promised his grace to the humble, that is, to those who lament and despair of themselves. But no man can be thoroughly humbled until he knows that his salvation is utterly beyond his own powers, devices, endeavors, will, and works, and depends entirely on the choice, will, and work of another, namely, of God alone. For as long as he is persuaded that he himself can do even the least thing toward his salvation, he retains some self-confidence and does not altogether despair of himself, and therefore he is not humbled before God, but presumes that there is – or at least hopes or desires that there may be – some place, time, and work for him, by which he may at length attain to salvation. But when a man has no doubt that everything depends on the will of God, then he completely despairs of himself and chooses nothing for himself, but waits for God to work; then he has come close to grace.” -Martin Luther

“You will never make yourself feel that you are a sinner, because there is a mechanism in you as a result of sin that will always be defending you against every accusation. We are all on very good terms with ourselves, and we can always put up a good case for ourselves.” - M.L. Jones

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – adapted from Isaiah 12

Pastor Erik Swanson

Minister: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

People: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

Prayer of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

The first system of the score features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. There are fermatas above the first and seventh measures of the treble staff.

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics underneath. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. There are fermatas above the seventh and eighth measures of the treble staff.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

The refrain begins with a treble staff containing a melodic line with eighth notes, circled in an oval. Below it, the bass staff provides accompaniment with quarter notes, also circled in an oval. The lyrics "Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o," are written below the treble staff.

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The second part of the refrain features a treble staff with a melodic line circled in an oval, and a bass staff with accompaniment circled in an oval. The lyrics "glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o." are written below the treble staff. There are fermatas above the seventh and eighth measures of the treble staff.

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Verse 1

One star
Burns in the darkness,
Shines with the promise Emmanuel.
One child
Born in the stillness,
Living within us, Emmanuel.

Chorus

We're singing *Glory, Glory.*
Let there be peace, let there be peace.
Singing *Glory, Glory.*
Let there be peace; let it start in me.

Verse 2

One voice
Speaks for the voiceless,
Hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel.
One love
Brings us together
Now and forever, Emmanuel.

Bridge

Do not be afraid;
His love is strong enough to save us.
Nothing stands in the way;
His love is strong enough to lead us.
(REPEAT)

Ending

Let there be peace; let it start in me.

Reader: This fourth Sunday of Advent we light a candle symbolizing **peace**, as we read, pray, and experience **peace** because of God's plan, 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.

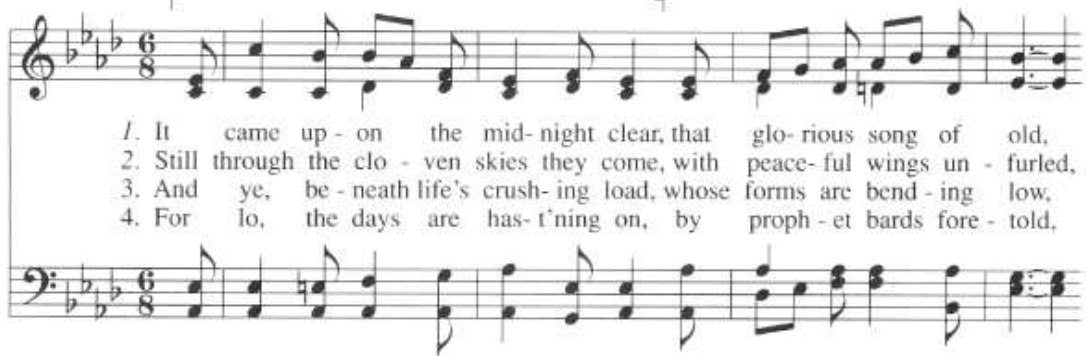
Four Candles Lit

Reader: "For 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." – Isaiah 9:6

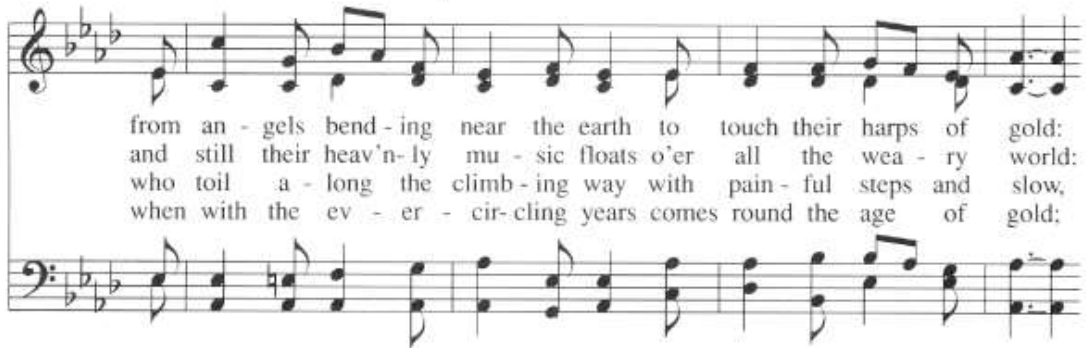
"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." - Colossians 3:15

All: Lord, I invite your peace to rule my heart! As I end this year and reflect on your many gifts you have given me; let my heart be encouraged with the truth that you are a good God. I thank you for sending your Son to die for me. I lay my burdens down at your feet, trusting in you. I thank you for the peace I have through you. May my words and actions be ones that glorify you. Also, Father, we ask for the salvation of those who do not know your peace. We pray that the lost turn to you and find an unshakable peace that nothing else in this world can offer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

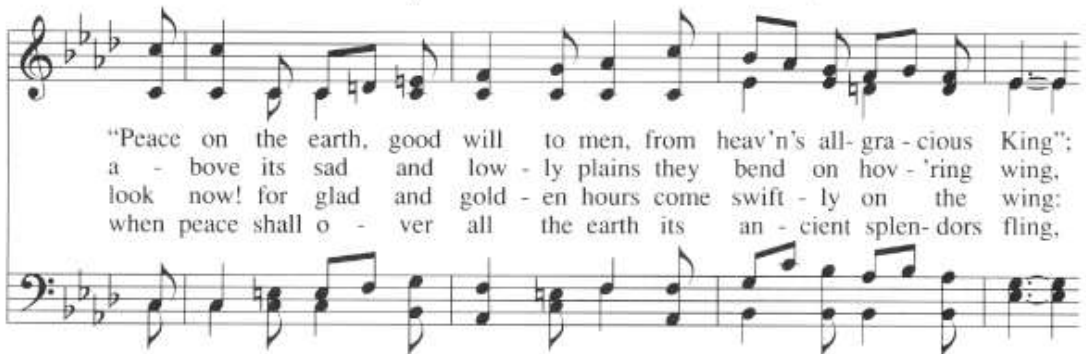
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



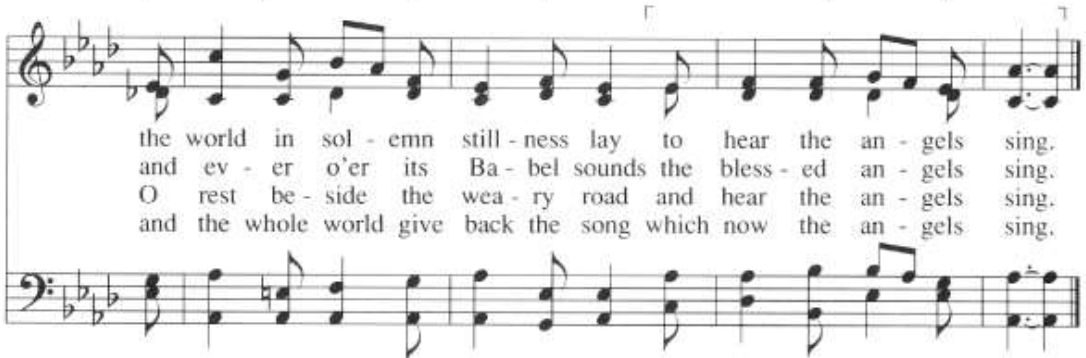
1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold:



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King";
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing,
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing,
O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing,
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

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 11:1-10*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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*

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

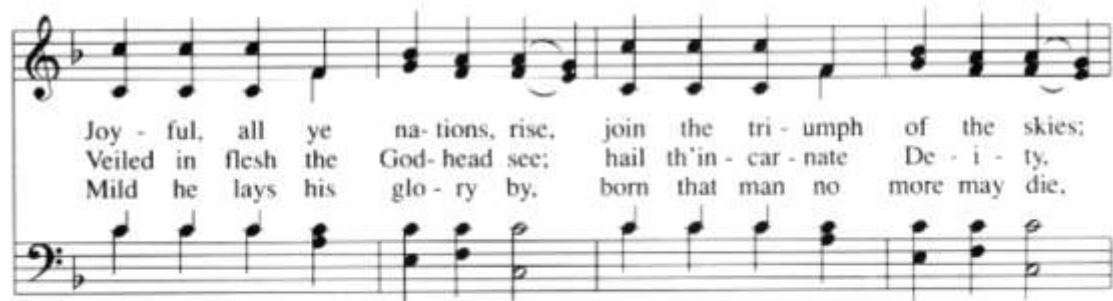
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



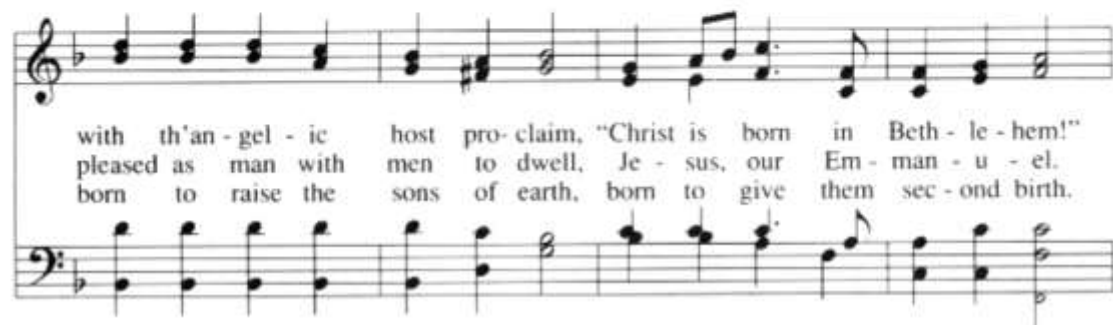
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King:
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

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 12/19	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	New Life
Sun 12/19	3:00 PM	Open House Christmas Party	Swanson Home
W 12/22	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Study	TV Room
W 12/22	7:00 PM	Music team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
F 12/24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
Sun 12/26	9:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms + Fishbowls
Sun 12/26	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date Offering	\$203,846.00	\$206,007.15
Week of 12/12	\$4,076.92	\$7,511.60

Announcements

- **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 today at 11:45. The hope is to have enough interest to offer this class starting some time mid-January. The class will meet for dinner and discussion. A host family who is willing to provide dinner for eight weeks is needed.
- **Advent at New Life:**
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 Sun. 12/19. 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.
- **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:** Come join us at New Life for a movie night!
Date: Saturday, January 15
Time: 6:30 PM
Snacks and beverages will be provided.
SILVERS – Mark your calendar and sign up next Sunday.
Looking forward to seeing you there!
- **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: The Women's Bible Study concluded its fall study on Exodus chapters 1-18 in November. A new study will begin in March 2022 using the Jen Wilkin study guide, *God of Freedom: Exodus 19-40*. If you have any questions or would like to know more about Women's Bible Study at New Life, please contact Marlene Spark, 717-428-3827 or email mjsmarlene@hotmail.com.

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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