



*Christmas Eve 2021*

*New Life Presbyterian Church*

# Welcome to New Life Presbyterian Church

Dear Visitor,

Welcome! It is a joy and privilege to gather this evening 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 evening 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 evening. 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 evening.

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. The nursery is available, located off of the fellowship hall, for parents who wish to stay with their babies/young children during the service.

# Worshiping God

*Christmas Eve*

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Reflection

*Let the just rejoice,  
for their Justifier is born.  
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
For their Savior is born.  
Let the captives rejoice,  
For their Redeemer is born.  
Let slaves rejoice,  
for their Master is born.  
Let free men rejoice,  
For their Liberator is born.  
Let All Christians rejoice,  
For Jesus Christ is born.*

- Augustine

## Prelude

## Welcome

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

## Call to Worship

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

## Bidding and Prayer of Adoration

*Minister:* The Peace of Christ be with you all.

*People:* **The Peace of Christ be with you.**

*All:* **Lord God we praise you for creating man, and still more for restoring him in Christ. Your Son shared our weakness: may we share His glory, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.**

## Homily

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”<sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
glo - ry to be God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

## *Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:

- “I have granted help to one who is mighty;  
I have exalted one chosen from the people.  
20 I have found David, my servant;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him,  
21 so that my hand shall be established with him;  
my arm also shall strengthen him.  
22 The enemy shall not outwit him;  
the wicked shall not humble him.  
23 I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.  
24 My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,  
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.  
25 I will set his hand on the sea  
and his right hand on the rivers.  
26 He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’  
27 And I will make him the firstborn,  
the highest of the kings of the earth.  
28 My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,  
and my covenant will stand firm] for him.  
29 I will establish his offspring forever  
and his throne as the days of the heavens...
- 35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;  
I will not lie to David.  
36 His offspring shall endure forever,  
his throne as long as the sun before me.

# Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;  
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;  
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!  
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:  
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
    who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

First and last verses

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;  
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by:  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth,  
where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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,

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

# 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.

## Special Music: Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

*Chris Wirt, Teresa Deckard, Jim Spark*

Tomorrow shall be My dancing day;  
I would My true love did so chance  
    To see the legend of My play,  
To call My true love to the dance.

    Sing Oh! My love,  
        Oh! My love,  
    My love, My love;  
This have I done for My true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance;  
Thus was I knit to man's nature,  
To call My true love to My dance.

In a manger laid and wrapp'd I was,  
So very poor, this was My chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
To call My true love to My dance.

Then on the cross hanged I was,  
Where a spear to My heart did glance,  
There issued forth both water and blood,  
To call My true love to My dance.

*Reader:* Tonight, the Advent season ends. We wait no longer. That great event for which we waited has happened. God's promise of a Redeemer is fulfilled. Christ Jesus is born. We light the Christ candle with praise to our God who brings joy to the world. Let us remember the hope that we have, promised by the prophets and fulfilled in Jesus.

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

*Scripture:* For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. -*Titus 2:11-14*

***All:* Lord Jesus Christ, tonight we celebrate your lowly coming as a baby in Bethlehem even as we wait for your glorious appearing on the clouds of heaven. In your coming, you have shown your majesty and splendor and have put a new song in our hearts and lives. We give thanks for your redeeming work, which assures us of victory, for the power of your Spirit that enables us to say "no" to sin and "yes" to righteousness, and for your love, which forgives us when we fail. Help us to live today and always as your sons and daughters. Rule in us today that through us your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. In your mighty name we pray. Amen.**

# Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -  
 2. Thou who are God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -  
 3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we

Bm Asus4/G A7 Dsus4 D D DM7 G/D D Bm D F#\*

cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,  
 cam - est man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,  
 wor - ship thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,

F#m C#m\* Bm D G/D A D A/D G/D D7

sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -  
 heav'n ward by thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who are God be -  
 make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -

G/D D G/BF#m/AG/B D/F# D/A A6 GM7/A A7 D

yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.  
 yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.  
 yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

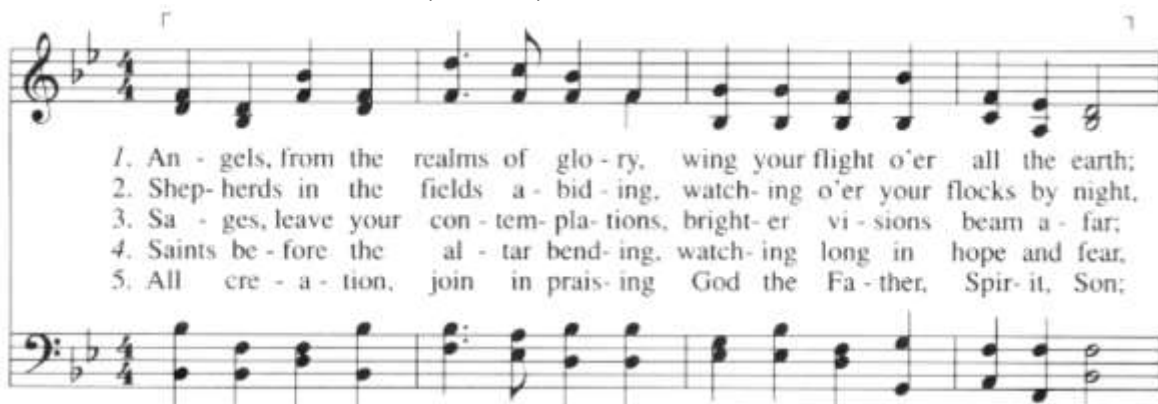
<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

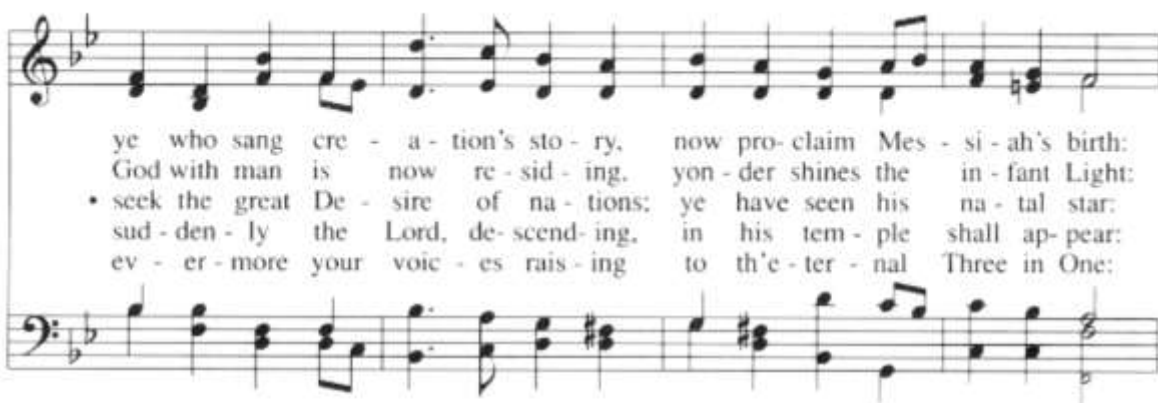


# Angels from the Realms of Glory

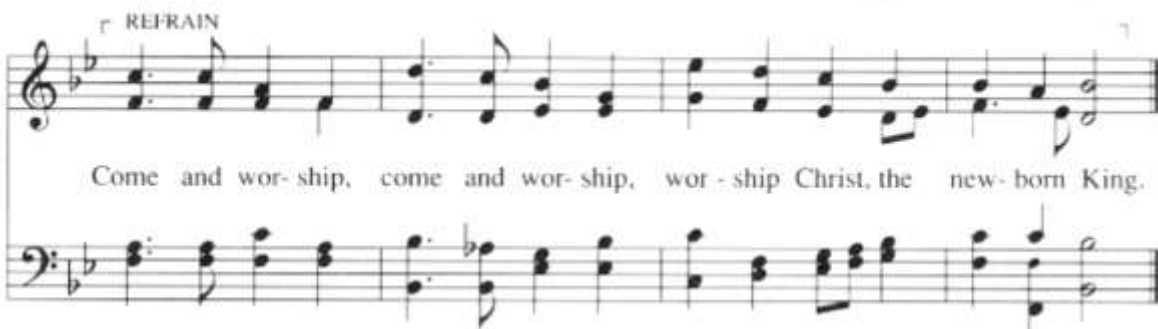
First, second, and last verses



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,  
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:  
• seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:  
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:



REFRAIN  
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Love incarnate, love divine,  
Star and angels gave the sign.  
Bow to babe on bended knee,  
The Savior of humanity.  
Unto us a Child is born;  
He shall reign forevermore.

Noel, Noel!  
Come and see what God has done!  
Noel, Noel!  
The story of amazing love!  
The light of the world given for us.  
Noel.

Son of God, and Son of man,  
There before the world began.  
Born to suffer, born to save,  
Born to raise us from the grave.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
He shall reign forevermore.

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

<sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

# Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

F(D)

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus: look  
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

B<sup>b</sup>(G)      F(D)      C<sup>7</sup>(A<sup>7</sup>)      F(D)      Gm(Em)      C<sup>7</sup>(A<sup>7</sup>)      F(D)      7

down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 down from on high and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 your ten - der care; pre - pare us for heav - en to live with you there.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

# Congregational Lighting of the Candles

## Choral Introduction: Peace, Peace

### Silent Night

Capo 7  $\Gamma$   $B^{\flat}(A)$   $\Gamma$   $F^{\flat}(E^{\flat})$   $B^{\flat}(A)$   $E^{\flat}(D)$

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon  
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep- herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries  
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - dian  
4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

$F^{\flat}(E^{\flat})$   $B^{\flat}(A)$   $\Gamma$   $F^{\flat}(E^{\flat})$   $B^{\flat}(A)$   $\Gamma$

# 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

## 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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