



**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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik Swanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Pastor Erik Swanson

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

# Worshiping God

January 9, 2022

## Reflection:

*“The story—from Rumpelstiltskin to War and Peace—is one of the basic tools invented by the human mind for the purpose of understanding. There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories.”*

*-Ursula K. Le Guin*

*“No, no! The adventures first, explanations take such a dreadful time.” -Lewis Carroll*

*“And he told them many things in parables...” – Matthew, reporting on Jesus’ ministry*

## Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship – Psalm 104:31-34**

*Wayne Blanding*

*Minister:*      May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
                         may the Lord rejoice in his works,  
                         who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
                         who touches the mountains and they smoke!

**People:**        **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;**  
                         **I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**  
                         **May my meditation be pleasing to him,**  
                         **for I rejoice in the Lord.**

## Prayer of Praise

# To God Be the Glory

## Verse 1

To God be the glory - great things He has done.  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

## Chorus

Praise the Lord; praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear His voice.  
Praise the Lord; praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice.  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son  
And give Him the glory - great things He has done.

## Verse 2

O perfect redemption - the purchase of blood  
To every believer the promise of God.  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

## Verse 3

Great things He has taught us.  
Great things He has done  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

# Christ Is Mine Forevermore

## Verse 1

Mine are days that God has numbered.  
I was made to walk with Him,  
Yet I look for worldly treasure  
And forsake the King of kings.

## Chorus 1

But mine is hope in my Redeemer.  
Though I fall His love is sure,  
For Christ has paid for every failing.  
I am His forevermore.

## Verse 2

Mine are tears in times of sorrow -  
Darkness not yet understood.  
Through the valley I must travel  
Where I see no earthly good.

## Chorus 2

But mine is peace that flows from heaven  
And the strength in times of need.  
I know my pain will not be wasted;  
Christ completes His work in me.

## Verse 3

Mine are days here as a stranger -  
Pilgrim on a narrow way.  
One with Christ, I will encounter  
Harm and hatred for His name.

## Chorus 3

But mine is armour for this battle,  
Strong enough to last the war,  
And He has said He will deliver  
Safely to the golden shore.

## Chorus 4

And mine are keys to Zion city  
Where beside the King I walk,  
For there my heart has found its treasure:  
Christ is mine forevermore.

## Bridge

Come rejoice now, O my soul!  
For His love is my reward.  
Fear is gone and hope is sure;  
Christ is mine forevermore.

## **Affirmation of Faith – *The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading – *Isaiah 30:19-22***

*Mark Deckard*

*Reader:* This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Prayer of Confession:**

**O Lord, you are enthroned in the heavens. There is no God but you. You are the God who sees; there is no deed, no word, and even no thought that you cannot see. All is laid open and bare before you. You know the secret sins, the secret deeds, the secret words, and the secret thoughts of all people. Who can hide from you? Lord, we are exposed before you; you see and know everything. You know how we have offended you and despised you by our deeds, words, and thoughts. We are before you, Lord, with no excuse. Have mercy, O Lord. We trust in the name of Jesus. Amen!**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness – *Ephesians 2:8-10***

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

# He Will Hold Me Fast

## Verse 1

When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast.  
When the tempter would prevail,  
He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path,  
For my love is often cold,  
He must hold me fast.

## Chorus

He will hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast,  
For my Savior loves me so.  
He will hold me fast.

## Verse 2

Those He saves are His delight.  
Christ will hold me fast.  
Precious in His holy sight,  
He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost,  
His Promises shall last.  
Bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast.

## Verse 3

For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast.  
Justice has been satisfied,  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life,  
He will hold me fast,  
Till our faith is turned to sight  
When He comes at last.

## 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 – *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

<sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."



**Sermon: The Sower and the Soils**

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

**Series: Stories of the Kingdom**

**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**

# My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

## Verse 1

My faith has found a resting place,  
Not in device or creed.  
I trust the ever-living One;  
His wounds for me shall plead.

## Chorus

I need no other argument;  
I need no other plea.  
It is enough that Jesus died  
And that He died for me.

## Verse 2

Enough for me that Jesus saves,  
This ends my fear and doubt.  
A sinful soul, I come to Him.  
He'll never cast me out.

## Verse 3

My heart is leaning on the Word,  
The living Word of God.  
Salvation by my Savior's name,  
Salvation thru His blood.

## Verse 4

My great Physician heals the sick,  
The lost He came to save.  
For me His precious blood He shed;  
For me His life He gave.

## **Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13:14**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## **The Sending:**

*Leader:* Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**All:**       **Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

\*All songs are either public domain or licensed under CCLI #2410623.

## This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 1/9	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages	Classrooms + Fishbowl rooms
Sun 1/9	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun 1/9	11:30 AM	Second Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Sun 1/9	11:45 AM	Short Term Missions Conversation	Fishbowl Room
Tu 1/11	7:00 PM	Bible Study Fellowship	New Life and/or Zoom
W 1/12	8:00 AM	Men's Group	Fishbowl Room
W 1/12	9:00 AM	Moms' Group	Fellowship Hall
W 1/12	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Study	TV Room
W 1/12	9:00 AM	Prayer Group	Library
W 1/12	7:00 PM	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sat 1/15	6:30 PM	SILVERS Movie: War Room	New Life
Sun 1/16	9:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms + Fishbowl rooms
Sun 1/16	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun 1/16	11:45 AM	Men's Activities Planning	Fishbowl Room
Sun 1/16	6:00 PM	Community Group	Swanson Home

## Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
<b>Year End 2021</b>	\$212,000.00	\$216,470.75
<b>Week of 01/02/22</b>		\$5,767.75

## Announcements

- **Women's Bible Study:** A repeat of Jen Wilken's *God of Deliverance: Exodus 1-18* will begin on Zoom starting next week. This is an excellent study of God working through Moses to save His people. This is a great opportunity to try group Bible study while staying safe and warm at home through these winter months. The first session will be Thurs. Jan. 13 at 7:00 PM with the subsequent meetings on Wed. evenings Jan. 19 on. The initial session is introductory. If you have *any* interest, please contact Marlene Spark at [mjsmarlene@hotmail.com](mailto:mjsmarlene@hotmail.com) or 717-428-3827.
- **Inclement Weather Policy:** If weather is questionable, we will post any cancellation notice to both the website and the Facebook page no later than 8:00 AM Sun. morning. If you do not have internet access, please call a friend to inquire.
- **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. The hope is to have enough interest to offer this class starting some time mid-Jan. The class will meet for dinner and discussion.
- **Short Term Missions Opportunities in 2022:** Interested in the possibility of a short-term missions trip? Join the conversation on Sun. Jan. 9 at 11:45. Meet in one of the fishbowl rooms.
- **Men's Group:** Men's group will reconvene this coming Wed. the 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss chapters 8 and 9 of *The Screwtape Letters*.
- **Men's Activities Planning:** Next Sun. the 16<sup>th</sup>, men are invited to join in a discussion of upcoming men's activities. Meet in a fishbowl room after the service.
- **SILVERS:** Come join us at New Life on Sat. Jan. 15 at 6:30 PM to enjoy the movie *War Room*. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Please sign up at the information table in the lobby. Looking forward to seeing you then!
- **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. Jan. 23 at 7:30pm.
- **2022 Women's Events Brainstorming:** Please meet in one of the fishbowl rooms on Sun. Jan. 30 at 11:45 to brainstorm women's fellowship events in 2022. Contact Holly Wirt for more information at [holly\\_hursh@yahoo.com](mailto:holly_hursh@yahoo.com) or 717-916-2113.

## Groups for Fellowship and Growth

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

**Women's Bible Study:** A winter Zoom-based study using Jen Wilken's *God of Deliverance: Exodus 1-18* will be held January through March. Also, beginning in March an in-person study will be held using the Jen Wilkin study guide, *God of Freedom: Exodus 19-40*. For more information please contact Marlene Spark at 717-428-3827 or [mjmarlene@hotmail.com](mailto:mjmarlene@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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 8:00-9:00am. Currently we are discussing *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Contact Rob Rothermel at [rrothe01@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

New Life Presbyterian Church, (717) 855-2360  
970 Cape Horn Rd., York, PA 17402  
[kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com](mailto:kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com)