



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 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

January 16, 2022

Reflection:

“Jesus announced God’s kingdom, and this would lead many of his hearers to expect a cataclysmic disruption of society... yet things went on apparently as before. It was to this impatience that the parable was primarily directed. God’s kingdom does bring division, and that division is final, but while it is already present in principle, its full outworking is for God to bring about in the final judgment.” - France

“The kingdom comes gently, like a seed, not with force like a club or hammer.... Some men want to use hammers all the time, even to drive screws. The Lord owns a hammer, but it is not his favorite instrument.” – Dan Doriani

“Wherever God plants seeds, Satan plants weeds. Wherever God creates, the evil one perverts.”- Dan Doriani

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Call to Worship – adapted from Psalms 95 and 100

Minister: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

***People:* For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

Minister: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the peaks of the mountains are his also.

***People:* The ocean is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.**

Minister: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

***People:* For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

Minister: Today, if you hear his voice, draw near to him and do not harden your hearts!

***People:* Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Prayer of Praise

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Verse 1

What is our hope in life and death? -
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence? -
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes apart from His command,
And what will keep us to the end? -
The love of Christ in which we stand.

Chorus

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal.
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

Verse 2

What truth can calm the troubled soul? -
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known? -
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Verse 3

Unto the grave what will we sing? -
Christ He lives, Christ He lives.
And what reward will heaven bring? -
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord.
Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore.

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 splendour 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.

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 – *Psalms 13*

Iren Snavelly

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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.

The Lion and the Lamb

Verse 1

He's coming on the clouds.
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Chorus

Our God is the Lion,
The Lion of Judah.
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him.
Our God is the Lamb,
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world.
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.
Every knee will bow before Him.

Verse 2

So open up the gates.
Make way before the King of kings.
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Bridge

Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)?

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 13:24-30, 36-43*

²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Sermon: How Long, O LORD?
Series: Stories of the Kingdom

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*

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

Days of Elijah

Verse 1

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days
Of Your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored;
And though these are days
Of great trials,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still we are the voice
In the desert crying,
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call.
So lift your voice.
It's the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes.

Verse 2

And these are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days
Of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise;
And these are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in the world;
And we are the labourers
In Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord.

Bridge

There is no god like Jehovah.
There is no god like Jehovah.
There is no god like Jehovah.
There is no god like Jehovah (hey!)

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 1/16 | 9:00 AM | Sunday School for all ages | Classrooms + Fishbowl rooms |
| Sun 1/16 | 10:00 AM | Corporate Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| Sun 1/16 | 11:30 AM | Men's Activities Planning | Fishbowl Room |
| Sun 1/16 | 6:00 PM | Community Group | Swanson Home |
| Tu 1/18 | 7:00 PM | Bible Study Fellowship | New Life and/or Zoom |
| W 1/19 | 9:00 AM | Moms' Group | Fellowship Hall |
| W 1/19 | 9:00 AM | Morning Bible Study | TV Room |
| W 1/19 | 7:00 PM | Music Team Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Sun 1/23 | 9:00 AM | Sunday School for All Ages | Classrooms + Fishbowl rooms |
| Sun 1/23 | 10:00 AM | Corporate Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| Sun 1/23 | 11:30 AM | Congregational Meeting | Sanctuary |
| Sun 1/23 | 7:30 PM | Men's Book Discussion | Swanson Home |

Church Financial Summary

| Category | Budget | Actual |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Year End 2021 | \$212,000.00 | \$217,470.75 |
| Week of 01/09/22 | | \$1,112.00 |

Announcements

- **Women's Bible Study:** A repeat of Jen Wilken's *God of Deliverance: Exodus 1-18* is beginning on Zoom. 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. We meet on Wed. evenings at 7pm. If you have *any* interest, please contact Marlene Spark at 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 8am Sun. morning. If you do not have internet access, please call a friend to inquire.
- **Christianity Explored Dinner and Discussion:** 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.
- **Men's Activities Planning:** Men are invited to join in a discussion of upcoming men's activities. Meet today in a fishbowl room after the service.
- **Congregational Meeting on Jan. 23:** The annual congregational meeting will be on Sun. Jan. 23. The agenda includes: looking back on highlights from 2021, looking ahead to ministries in 2022, and looking at the church's finances. The congregation will deliberate on and vote on a proposed change to the pastor's salary.
- **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.
- **Young Adults Gathering on Jan. 27:** Mark your calendars for a gathering on Thurs. Jan. 27 at 7pm, for an evening of food, fellowship, and discussion. Meet at the Swanson's. We will be discussing Christianity and culture.
- **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 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* is being 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.

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 virtue of wisdom. 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>

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