

New Life Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve 2022



Artwork by Joy Swanson

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,

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 24th, 2022

Reflection

“Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.” – C.S. Lewis

“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” -An Angel of the LORD

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor Erik Swanson

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 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.

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
for ever and ever.**

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;

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.

REFRAIN

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

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

Homily

First Lesson: Genesis 3:15; Genesis 17:1-7

Joy Swanson

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 17:1-7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and



peo - ple free; From our fears ___ and sins re - lease ___ us,
yet ___ a King: Born to reign ___ in us for - ev - er,



let us find our rest ___ in Thee. Is - rael's strength ___ and
now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own ___ e -



con - so - la - tion, hope of all ___ the earth ___ Thou art,
- ter - nal Spir - it rule in all ___ our hearts ___ a - lone;



Dear ___ de - sire ___ of ev' - ry na - tion,
By ___ Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,



joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.
raise us to ___ Thy glo - rious throne.

Second Lesson: Psalm 2

Wayne Blanding

Why do the nations rage

and the peoples plot in vain?

²The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

³“Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”

⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

⁶“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”

⁷I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.

⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”

¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹²Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-7

Sue Ann Randall

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.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³ You 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.

⁴ For 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.

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

⁶ 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.

⁷ Of 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.

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

"He Shall Reign Forevermore" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher
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Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

Carol Rohrbaugh

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.

⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them.

Special Music: Love Came Down to Bethlehem

Worship Team

Verse 1

Love came down to Bethlehem
While the world was sleeping
Love came down to make amends
For all creation's weeping

Pre-Chorus

He that sang the stars to life
He the Word became a cry

Chorus 1

Rejoice Rejoice
Glory to God hallelujah
Gloria

Verse 2

King of heaven's high estate
Child in lowly manger
His the priv'lege to forsake
To welcome in the stranger

Pre-Chorus

Born to heal the bonds of men
Born that we'd be born again

Chorus 2

Rejoice rejoice
Glory to God hallelujah
Heaven and nature singing together
Glory to God hallelujah
Gloria gloria

Chorus 3

Rejoice rejoice
Glory to God hallelujah
Heaven and nature singing together
Glory to God hallelujah
Heaven and nature angels and
shepherds
Wise men and beggars praise to the
Savior
Forever and ever gloria
Gloria gloria

"Love Came Down To Bethlehem" words and music by Jon
Guerra, Matt Maher
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Advent Liturgy

The Rishel Family

Reader:

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Scripture: Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Congregational Prayer:

Eternal God, this joyful night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. We are thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son. Amen.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

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

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

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

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

What Child Is This?



1. What Child is this, — who laid to rest, — on Mar - y's lap — is
 2. Why lies He in — such mean es - tate — where ox and ass — are
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh; — Come, peas - ant, king, — to

4 B Em D/F# G D Em Am B

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet — with an - them's sweet, — while shep - herds watch — are
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear — for sin - ners here, — the si - lent Word — is
 own — Him. The King of kings — sal - va - tion brings; — Let lov - ing hearts — en -

8 E^{sus} Em Bm G D Em Am/C

keep - ing? This, this — is Christ the King, — whom shep - herds guard — and
 plead - ing. Nails, spear — shall pierce Him through, — the cross be borne — for
 - throne Him. Raise, raise — the song on high; — The Vir - gin sings — her

12 B Bm G D Em Am B E^{sus} Em

an - gels sing. Haste, haste — to bring Him laud, — the Babe, — the Son — of Mar - y.
 me, for you. Hail, hail — the Word made flesh, — the Babe, — the Son — of Mar - y.
 lull - a - by. Joy, joy — for Christ is born, — the Babe, — the Son — of Mar - y.

Special Music: O Holy Night

Carol Feeney, Jim Spark, Tim Ryan, Jenn Ryan

O holy night the stars are brightly
shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error
pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its
worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious
morn

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night O holy night
O night divine

Led by the light of faith serenely
beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we
stand
So led by light of a star sweetly
gleaming
Here came the wise men from Orient
land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly
manger
In all our trials born to be our Friend

He knows our need
To our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King
Before Him lowly bend
Behold your King
Before Him lowly bend

Christ is the Lord
O praise His name forever
His power and glory
Evermore proclaim
His power and glory
Evermore proclaim

Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-14

Barry Francisco

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Silent Night (by candlelight)

Capo 1: ♯ B(A) ♯ F⁷(E⁷) B(A) E(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 - diant
 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!

♯ F⁷(E⁷) B(A) ♯ F⁷(E⁷) B(A) ♯

Benediction

Joy to the World (raise lit candles on 4th verse)

G D A⁷ D G A

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

B 7

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 play; 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

A

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,

G D D:A A⁷ and D 7

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,

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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