



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 3, 2023

Reflections:

“Only the humble believe him and rejoice that God is so free and so marvelous that he does wonders where people despair, that he takes what is little and lowly and makes it marvelous. And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – from Psalm 96

Joe Heidler

*Minister: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.*

**People: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**

*Minister: Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.*

**People: He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

Prayer of Praise

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

"Days of Elijah" words and music by Robin Mark
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Manger Throne

Verse 1

You could have stepped into creation
With fire for all to see
Brought every tribe and nation to their
knees
Arriving with the host of heaven
In royal robe and crown
The rulers of the earth all bowing down

Pre-Chorus

But You chose meekness over majesty
Wrapped Your power in humanity

Chorus

Glory be to You alone
King who reigns from a manger throne
My life my praise everything I own
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

Verse 2

You could have marched in all Your glory
Into the heart of Rome
Showed them splendor like they'd never
known
But You wrote a better story
In humble Bethlehem
Creator in the arms of common men

Pre-Chorus

You will die for our redemption
And You'll rise so we can live

Bridge

From heaven to the cradle
From cradle to the cross
Let heaven and nature sing
This is our King
But the grave couldn't hold Him
Our God has overcome
Let heaven and nature sing
This is our King
(REPEAT)

All hail the King
All hail the King
All hail the King

Ending

My life my praise everything I own
To Jesus the King on a manger throne
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

"Manger Throne" words and music by Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham, Tony Wood

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Advent Readings

Reader: Advent is a time of waiting, of holy expectation for what is to come. It is a time of preparing our hearts and our homes for Christmas joy. Just four weeks from now, we celebrate God revealing what love really is in the person of Jesus.

Child: Advent is about waiting. And waiting can be hard, especially when you are waiting for Christmas.

Reader: During Advent we remember the incarnation of Jesus. Born to a young woman who, but for love, would have been an outcast. Born in a barn, God incarnate had a rocky start. The God we meet in Jesus is a God of compassion, of righteousness and of a radical love like no other. The God who created the heavens and the earth becomes flesh and dwells among us. Emmanuel, God with us.

Lighting of the Candle

Reader: Isaiah and Matthew tell us: "A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken... The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us.") [Isaiah 40:3-5; Matthew 1:23]

Congregational Prayer:

God of Advent, we are an impatient and busy people. We are propelled into Christmas and swept away by activity. Help us to slow down and savor Advent. Forgive us for being so self-focused. Teach us in this rhythm of expectation to see you at work in our lives and in the world. Your son was not born in a castle to strong rulers. He was born in a barn to a vulnerable young woman. That teaches us about you. Open our eyes to the vulnerable around us in our own communities and in our global home. Guard every child that is in need. Equip us, your people, to fill in the valleys and make the rough smooth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Reader: Hear God's promise through the prophet Isaiah: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God...He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young." – Isaiah 40:1a, 11

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come _____ and cheer our spir - its by Thine
 3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from _____ on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

5 Fm Cm/G Gm Cm Fm Cm/Eb Bb/D Cm Gm Ab Bb Cm



Is - ra - el; That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds _____ of night, and
 far _____ and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart _____ and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill

CHORUS

10 Bb Eb Ab Eb/G Bb Eb Bb Cm Gm Eb



-til the Son of God _____ ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 death's dark shad - ows put _____ to flight.
 cause us in her ways _____ to go.
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

15 Ab Eb/G Bb Cm Bb/D Eb Ab Fm Cm/G Gm Cm



-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment

Offering

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.

Special Music – “Even So Come”

Worship Team

Verse 1

All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the
Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Verse 2

Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus 1

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Verse 3

There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Bridge

So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon

Chorus 2

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

“Even So Come” words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates

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Doxology:

**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 – Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's
hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of
the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway
for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made
low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be
revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of
the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on
it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand
forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with
might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with
young.

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.

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

The elders and deacons will serve you in your seats. Please hold the elements so that we can partake together after all have been served. Use the extra time during communion for prayer and reflection.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Behold Our God (with O Come Let Us Adore Him)

Verse 1

Who has held the oceans in His hands
Who has numbered every grain of sand
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Verse 2

Who has given counsel to the Lord
Who can question any of His words
Who can teach the One who knows all
things
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Verse 3

Who has felt the nails upon His hand
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus Savior risen now to reign

Bridge

You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill the earth)
(REPEAT 6X)
You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill)

Tag

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

"Behold Our God" words and music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge

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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:

Minister: 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. 12/3	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	New Life
Sun. 12/3	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/3	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Kay & Loht Homes
Tu. 12/5	7:00 pm	Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 12/6	9:00 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
W. 12/6	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 12/6	5:30 pm	Pageant Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 12/6	6:00 pm	SILVERS Committee Meeting	Classroom 4
W. 12/6	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 12/6	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship Meeting	Classrooms 1 + 2
W. 12/6	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 3
Th. 12/7	9:30 am	Women's In-Person Bible Study	Aquarium
Th. 12/7	7:00 pm	Women's Zoom Bible Study	Zoom
F. 12/8	5:00 pm	Open House Christmas Party	Swanson Home
Sat. 12/9	6:00 pm	Youth Group Christmas Party	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12/10	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	New Life
Sun. 12/10	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/10	11:30 am	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12/10	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2023	\$244,615.20	\$293,648.80
Week of 11/26/23	\$5,096.15	\$4,135.17

Announcements

- **Diaconate Help:** The deacons are hoping to create a “minuteman” list, a list of women or men who are willing, assuming availability, to help at a moment’s notice with practical needs that arise. Examples are helping drive others to a doctor’s appointment or to run errands. Please contact Steve Harman if you’re willing to have your name on the contact list for diaconate help.
- **Volunteer Schedule:** The 4th quarter volunteer schedule is up in the foyer. Please consider signing up to provide Sunday fellowship refreshments. Remember you can keep it simple!
- **Cleaner Openings:** We are in big need of some more cleaners for the church. Over the winter, we only have two teams volunteering and we don’t want someone to have to clean more than once a month. Would you consider volunteering? Kelly is happy to answer any questions you may have.
- **Deacon’s Offering:** The Deacons Fund allows the deacons to support people in need, whether people from New Life or people who come to the church for help. Please consider giving to this fund through a special offering on **Dec. 10**.
- **Young Adult and Youth Group Game and Snack Night:** The young adults and youth group are invited to mingle together at New Life on **Sat. Dec. 16** at 7pm for a fun night of games and snacks. Attenders are asked to bring a game and snack to share. Come along to socialize even if you won’t be playing a game!
- **Christmas Pageant Props Needed to Borrow:** We are still in need of a few more shepherd's crooks for this December's Christmas pageant. If you have anything in your house that might work, please contact Jenn Ryan at jenn@newlifeyorkpca.com. Thank you!
- **Refreshments for the 12/17 Christmas Pageant:** Thirteen people are needed to donate 2 dozen cookies each. Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. The cookies should be delivered the morning of Sun. Dec. 17. Thank you! Questions: call Mel King or Alice Lomax.

- **Advent and Christmas at New Life**

- Pick up an **Advent Devotional**, written by members and regular attenders of New Life.
- **Fri. Dec. 8:** Come anytime between 5-8 pm to the **Swanson's Open House Christmas Party**. The only thing requested is your presence; appetizers, snacks, and treats will be provided.
- **Sat. Dec. 9:** The **Youth Group Christmas Party** will meet at 6 pm for Christmas Caroling in the community, followed by a gift exchange game (\$5-10 gift, please) at New Life.
- **Sun. Dec. 10:** In lieu of second Sunday lunch, NLPC will be coordinating a **Christmas luncheon**. Turkey will be provided. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer for sides, salads, and desserts. Please bring hot dishes in crockpots, as the oven will not be available. Dishes should be enough for 10-12 people.
- **Sun. Dec. 17:** The **Kids' Christmas Pageant** will be at 4 pm at New Life, followed by refreshments.
- **Sun. Dec. 24:** Worship will occur as normal at 10 am. There will be no children's Sunday school that morning. The **Lessons and Carols** service will be at 6:30 pm.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Sunday School for all ages is offered during the 9:00 hour.

Women's Bible Study: We are studying the gospel of Luke using the guide Luke: Knowing For Sure, Volume 1 (Chapters 1-10), A 13-Lesson Study. Dates and Times: Thursdays, 9:30-11 am, at church, or 7-8:30 pm on Zoom. Please contact Marlene Spark for details.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text? Join us at New Life in the TV Room at 9:00 am.

Moms+: This is a group of women dedicated to living life together. Children are welcome to attend concurrent classes. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Joy Swanson.

Men's Group: Meets at New Life every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 am. **For planning purposes, please call ahead to Rob Rothermel each week that you plan to attend.**

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: We have two opportunities: The evening group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Contact Sherry Rishel. The daytime group meets every Thursday (except the Thursday that follows the Wednesday evening prayer group) at 8:30am. Contact Sue Rothermel.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): BSF is studying the book of John. Contact Joe Heidler 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 Groups: Designed to be a microcosm of the church, this is an intergenerational home-gathering for fellowship, food, bible study, (singing), and prayer. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 6-7:30pm. See Pastor Erik if you would like to join a group.