



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 10, 2023

Reflections:

“The virgin birth has never been a major stumbling block in my struggle with Christianity; it’s far less mind-boggling than the Power of all Creation stooping so low as to become one of us.” — Madeleine L’Engle

“Man’s maker was made man that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother’s breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that Truth might be accused of false witnesses, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.”
— Augustine of Hippo

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – from Isaiah 49

Joe Heidler

Minister: Shout for joy, O heavens. Rejoice, O earth. Burst into song, O mountains.

People: For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

Minister: But we said, “The Lord has forsaken us. The Lord has forgotten us.”

People: Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?

Minister: But the Lord has said, “Though she may forget I will not forget you!”

People: The Lord has said, “See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands. You are always before me.”

Prayer of Praise

Jesus, Messiah

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

Verse 2

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

Bridge

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Ending

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

"Jesus Messiah" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, and Jesse Reeves
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Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)

Verse 1

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

Verse 2

Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us

Chorus

Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Verse 3

Light of the world crown in a manger
Born for the cross to suffer to save
High King of Heaven death is the poorer
We are the richer by the price that He paid

Verse 4

Light of the World soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory
And there He shall reign forevermore forevermore

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)” words and music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash
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Music

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Reader: *As we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord, we prepare our homes for the arrival of family and friends. We imagine what it will be like to sit and dine and visit with loved ones. We treasure thoughts of home when home is safe and loving.*

Child: *Home is a great place to be at Christmas. I can't wait to open gifts, eat with family and friends and have fun. Home is the best place to be this time of year.*

Reader: *Mary and Joseph had to leave home, just when they needed home the most. Their difficult journey to Bethlehem meant they were alone at a time when they most needed community. Yet God was present to Mary and Joseph in their wandering. They experienced God as protector and sustainer, even as they traveled from their home to the unfamiliarity of Bethlehem for the census. Once there, they experienced God as keeper of promises.*

Lighting of the Candle

Reader: *Jeremiah says: 'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.' [Jeremiah 33:14-16]*

Congregational Prayer: **Dear God, You are our heart's home. Your home is safe, loving, and eternal. But, so many of your children are trapped in homes that are not safe. Or they are forced to leave homes that are — for nightmares they barely escape. You chose to incarnate yourself into a family that had little else but love on the night you were born. Rescue us from the danger of being obsessed with ourselves so that we can see the needs, and the hope, around us. Forgive us for not finding our security in you. Forgive us for failing to show your love to others. Draw us closer to your light as we draw closer to Christmas. 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*

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

The first system of music consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with notes and rests, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the four verses.

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, continuing the verses from the previous system.

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

The third system of music concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The bass staff ends with a double bar line and a final chord. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, concluding the verses.

Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment

Deacon's Offering/Special Music: "God With Us"

Worship Team

Verse 1

Oh You've come to bring peace to be
Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Verse 2

Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear
shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Chorus

Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us

Bridge

You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory (Lord)
(REPEAT)

Ending

Oh God with us
You are God with us

"God With Us" words and music by Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan
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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 49:1-13*

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from
afar.
The Lord called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named
my name.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and
vanity;
yet surely my right is with the Lord,
and my recompense with my God.”
⁵ And now the Lord says,
he who formed me from the womb to be
his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to
him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says:
“It is too light a thing that you should be
my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end
of the earth.”
⁷ Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the
nation,
the servant of rulers:
“Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate
themselves;
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen
you.”
⁸ Thus says the Lord:
“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;
I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages,
⁹ saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’
They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;
¹⁰ they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall
strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.
¹¹ And I will make all my mountains a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.
¹² Behold, these shall come from afar,
and behold, these from the north and
from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.”
¹³ Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O
earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

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

King of Kings

Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

Verse 2

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering

You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Verse 3

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

Verse 4

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

“King of Kings” words and music by Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood
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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. 12/10	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
Tu. 12/12	7:00 pm	Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 12/13	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
W. 12/13	9:00 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
W. 12/13	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 12/13	5:30 pm	Pageant Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 12/13	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 12/14	11:15 am	Prayer Meeting	Resource Room
Sat. 12/16	7:00 pm	Young Adult/Youth Group Game Night	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12/17	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	New Life
Sun. 12/17	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/17	4:00 pm	Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2023	\$249,711.35	\$307,468.80
Week of 12/3/23	\$5,096.15	\$13,820.00

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.
- **Cleaner Openings:** We are in big need of some more cleaners for the church. Would you consider volunteering? Kelly is happy to answer any questions you may have.
- **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!
- **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.
 - **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.
- **Women’s Event: Painting Class:** Paint a snowman/snowwoman in this beginner level project led by Donna Ryan on **Sat. Jan. 13** at 2pm at the church. The cost is \$5. Limit: 20 people.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

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

Women's Bible Study: We will resume again in the spring. Please contact Marlene Spark with questions.

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 11:15am. Contact Sue Rothermel.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): 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.

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 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 to 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 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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