



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 17, 2023

Reflections:

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;

Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to man's nature
To call my true love to my dance.

- Traditional English Christmas Carol

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – *Philippians 4:4-9*

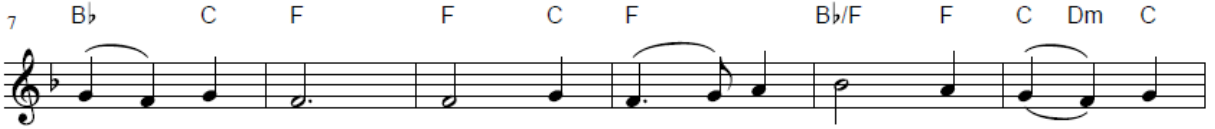
Minister: ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Prayer of Praise

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - 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.

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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Reader: *During Christmas, surrounded by family and friends, we feel the warmth of knowing we belong in this place, with these people. Or, we feel the jarring disappointment that can come when we sense we do not.*

Child: *When it is Christmas and family and friends are around, I feel I belong somewhere special. But I know that not everyone feels that way this time of year.*

Reader: *This season is a time of highs and lows, of joy and depression, of rushing when we want to stand still. Within the Christmas story itself, we find opposites. Angels, heaven’s glorious citizens, mix and mingle with shepherds, Bethlehem’s least. The God who chose an unwed mother and who was born in a barn uses shepherds, the outcasts of the day, to be the first to hear the news that Immanuel has come.*

Lighting of the Candles

Reader: *Paul tells us: “But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” [1 Corinthians 1:27-31]*

Congregational Prayer: **Dear God, You are the light of the world. In you, there is no darkness at all. There are no outcasts, no one who is not good enough. Forgive us for believing, if only for a moment, that we had to be good enough for your love. Forgive us for failing to walk in the light. Renew us, we pray. In Jesus’ name, 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*

Even So Come

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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Prayers of the People

Missions Moment

Ron Zeigler

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.

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/E♭ B♭/D Cm Gm A♭ B♭ 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 B♭ E♭ A♭ E♭/G B♭ E♭ B♭ Cm Gm E♭

-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 A♭ E♭/G B♭ Cm B♭/D E♭ A♭ Fm Cm/G Gm Cm

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

Doxology:

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

**We'll give You all the glory
 We'll give You all the glory
 We'll give You all the glory
 Christ the Lord**

"O Come Let Us Adore Him" words and music by C. Frederick Oakeley, John Francis Wade, Matt Redman, Teri Bryant
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Scripture – Isaiah 59:1-2, 14-21

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

² but your iniquities have made a separation
between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you
so that he does not hear...

¹⁴ Justice is turned back,
and righteousness stands far away;
for truth has stumbled in the public squares,
and uprightness cannot enter.

¹⁵ Truth is lacking,
and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.
The Lord saw it, and it displeased him
that there was no justice.

¹⁶ He saw that there was no man,
and wondered that there was no one to intercede;
then his own arm brought him salvation,
and his righteousness upheld him.

¹⁷ He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

¹⁸ According to their deeds, so will he repay,
wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies;
to the coastlands he will render repayment.

¹⁹ So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west,
and his glory from the rising of the sun;
for he will come like a rushing stream,
which the wind of the Lord drives.

²⁰ “And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the Lord.

²¹ “And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring,” says the Lord, “from this time forth and forevermore.”

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

Joy to the World

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

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

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,

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,

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. 12/17	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
W. 12/20	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 12/20	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 12/20	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship Meeting	Classrooms 1 & 2
Th. 12/21	11:15 am	Prayer Meeting	Resource Room
Sun. 12/24	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School	New Life
Sun. 12/24	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/24	6:30 pm	Lessons & Carols Service	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2023	\$254,807.50	\$316,432.97
Week of 12/10/23	\$5,096.15	\$8,964.17

Deacon's 12/10 Offering: \$6,292.25

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.
- **Advent and Christmas at 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.
- **London Evangelism and Prayer (LEAP):** Please prayerfully consider whether you are interested in potentially participating in a short-term mission trip to London in the summer of 2024. The trip is titled; “London Evangelism and Prayer,” and it will occur from **July 1 through July 8**. The mission organization New Life is partnering with, Serge, is ministering to the East Asian community (Indians, Pakistanis, etc.) who reside in London. Approximately 1/3 of the time is spent learning about other religions and how to share the gospel, 1/3 of the time is spent in direct evangelism - street evangelism and door-to-door evangelism, and 1/3 of the time is spent in prayer. Meet in Classroom 2 on **Sun. Jan. 14** at 11:45am, for more information, or contact Pastor Erik. We currently have 2 people from NLPC registered to participate, and we will be partnering with Wheatland PCA in Lancaster. NLPC attenders to LEAP will do their own fundraising as a group, and NLPC attenders will join with Wheatland for ministry preparation and travel.
- **Congregational Meeting on January 21:** Please mark your calendars for **Sun. Jan. 21** for a congregational meeting at 11:30am. The agenda will include: 1. Giving thanks for the highlights of 2023; 2. Discussion of ministry plans for 2024, including the plan for searching for/hiring a second pastor by mid-year; 3. A presentation of the 2024 budget, which also will include a congregational vote on the proposed cost living increase for the pastor’s salary. Regular attenders are encouraged to attend; for any matters that require voting only members may vote.

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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