



# 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,

Pastor Erik Swanson

P.S. There is a staffed nursery, off the fellowship hall, for children ages 0-4.

# Worshiping God

December 31, 2023

## Reflections:

The best of it all is, God is with us. - *John Wesley*

God is with us, and His power is around us. - *Charles Spurgeon*

## Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

## Prelude

## Call to Worship – *Adapted from Isaiah 9*

*Joe Heidler*

*Minister:*     *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.*

**People:**       **Father, we walk in darkness. Send us your light.**

*Minister:*     *On those living in the land of the shadow of death a great light has dawned.*

**People:**       **Without your light, Lord, we will be consumed by death.**

*Minister:*     *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.*

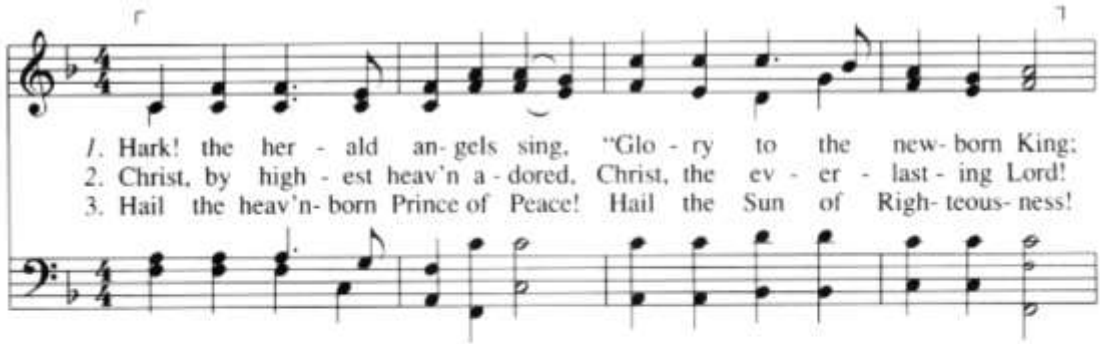
**People:**       **You sent your Son to be our light. You sent Him to save us and rule us.**

*Minister:*     *And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

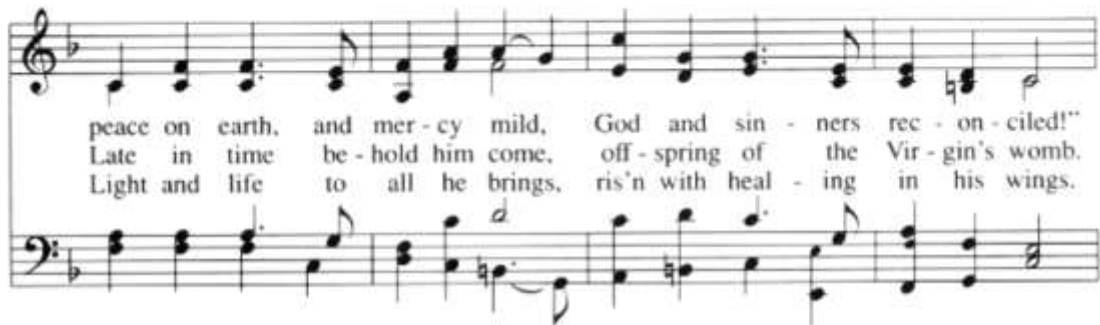
**People:**       **Father, reign over us through your son Jesus Christ. Give us life.**

## Prayer of Praise

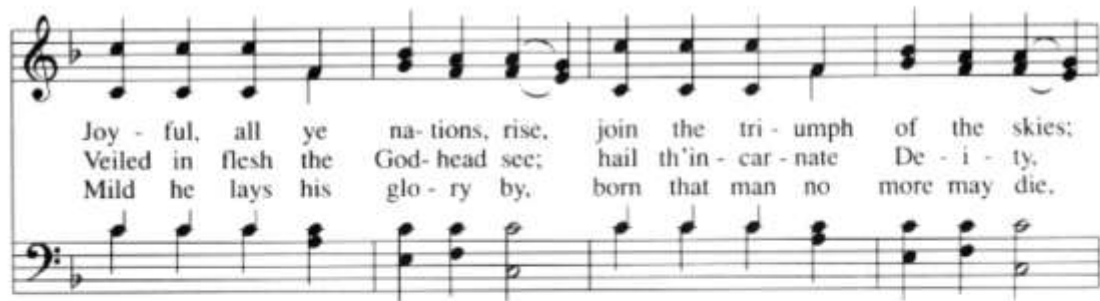
# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



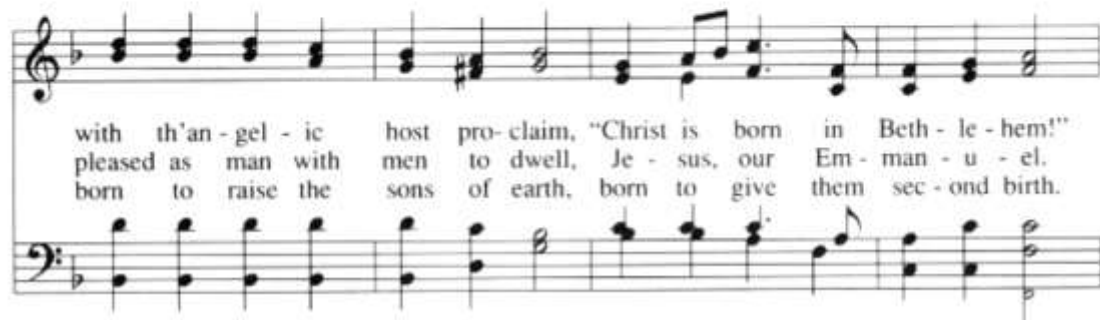
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die.



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

7

# 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

## Chorus

## 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

## Chorus

“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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## **Affirmation of Faith - Isaiah 40:9-11**

**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!”  
<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup> 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.**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Everlasting Father, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. We confess that we have been foolish, have strayed from you and have wandered on our own way. But you have been merciful to us by sending your only begotten Son to take the form of a servant, and to be obedient even to death on a cross. We confess that we have not faithfully loved you, or adequately cared for our neighbors. We have not had the same mind that was in Christ, or shared in his humility. Pour out, therefore, your grace upon us that we might enjoy purity of heart and strength of purpose, and in your service find perfect freedom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness – Isaiah 59:20-21**

*“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,  
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the LORD.  
<sup>21</sup> “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.”*

# God With Us

## INTRO

$\text{♩} = 136$  C F G Am G C

## VERSE

1. Oh, You've come to bring peace,  
(2. Oh, You've come) to be Hope

6 F G Am G C

to be Love, to be near - er to us. You've come to bring life,  
to this world, for Your hon - or and name. And You've come to take sin,

10 F G Am G F C

to be Light, to shine bright - er in us. Oh, Em - man - u -  
to bear shame, and to con - quer the grave. Oh, Em - man - u -

## CHORUS

14 G F C G F C G

el, God with us. Our De - liv - er - er, You are Sav - ior.  
el, God with us.

19 F Am7 G F C G F Am

In Your pres - ence, we find our strength o - ver ev - 'ry - thing, our Re - demp - tion, God with



24 1 2  
 G F Am G G Am  
*Last time to Coda*  $\text{\textcircled{C}}$

us. You are God with us. 2. Oh, You've come us.

**BRIDGE** 1 2  
 Am F C G G  
*repeat as desired*

You are here. You are ho-ly. We are stand-ing in Your glo-ry. in Your glo-ry.

**CHORUS**

35 F F C G F

Lord. Our De-liv-er-er, You are Sav-ior. In Your pres-ence, we

40 Am7 G F C G F Am G *D.S. al Coda*

find our strength o-ver ev-'ry-thing, our Re-demp-tion, God with us.

45  $\text{\textcircled{C}}$  *Coda* G

us. Oh,

**ENDING**

F Am G F Am G F

God with us. You are God with us.

## Prayers of the People

### Ministry Moment

**Membership Vows** – *Peggy and Wade Johns*

**Baptism** – *Leo August Johns*

### 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.

### 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** – *John 1:1-18*

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup> **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.** <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

(Emphasis added)

**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**

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

## CHORUS

D G/D D Bm<sup>7</sup> Em G/A A<sup>7</sup> D G/D D G/D



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

5 D G/D D Bm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>9</sup> G/A A<sup>7</sup> D G/D D Fine



Go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ \_ is born.

## VERSE

9 D A/C# Bm<sup>7</sup> Em G/A A<sup>7</sup> D G/D



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
 2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo a - bove the earth, rang  
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

14 D A/C# Bm<sup>7</sup> E D/E E A<sup>7sus</sup> A<sup>7</sup> D.C.



-hold through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light. \_\_\_\_\_  
 out the an - gel chor - us that hailed the Sav - ior's birth. \_\_\_\_\_  
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bles - sed Christ - mas morn. \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Event</b>                  | <b>Location</b>  |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Sun. 12/31  | 9:00 am     | Sunday School for All Ages    | Classrooms       |
| Sun. 12/31  | 10:00 am    | Corporate Worship Service     | Sanctuary        |
| W. 1/3      | 9:00 am     | Wednesday Morning Bible Study | Classroom 1      |
| W. 1/3      | 6:00 pm     | SILVERS Committee Meeting     | Classroom 4      |
| W. 1/3      | 7:00 pm     | Music Team Rehearsal          | Sanctuary        |
| W. 1/3      | 7:00 pm     | Youth Discipleship Meeting    | Classrooms 1 & 2 |
| W. 1/3      | 7:00 pm     | Prayer Meeting                | Classroom 3      |
| Sun. 1/7    | 9:00 am     | Sunday School for All Ages    | Classrooms       |
| Sun. 1/7    | 10:00 am    | Corporate Worship Service     | Sanctuary        |
| Sun. 1/7    | 6:00 pm     | Community Groups              | Kay & Loht Homes |

## Church Financial Summary

| <b>Category</b>          | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Year to Date 2023</b> | \$264,999.80  | \$339,252.97  |
| <b>Week of 12/24/23</b>  | \$5,096.15    | \$9,255.00    |

## Announcements

- **Refreshments:** The volunteer sign-up for 2024's first quarter has been posted in the lobby. Thank you to all our volunteers! You'll notice there is a need for refreshment providers. Remember, please keep it simple!
- **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.
- **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.
- **Women's Book Club:** This winter we will be reading *All My Knotted-Up Life* by Beth Moore. Read at your own pace, then join us for a dinner and discussion on **Sun. Feb. 25**. Exact time and place to be determined. Contact Connie Kay with any questions.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month from 6-7:30pm. See Pastor Erik if you would like to join a group.