



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.

Worshipping God

January 14, 2024

Reflection

“You must look for [the key that will unify the whole of life]: God has made you like that, sore travail though it be. But you will not find it in the world; you will not find it in life; in revelation you will find the outskirts of God’s ways; in Christ your fingertips touch the key, but no one has closed his fingers on it yet. No philosophy of life can satisfy if it leaves out Christ. Yet even the finest Christian philosophy must own itself baffled. But do not despair. There is a life to be lived day by day. And in the succession of apparently unrelated events God may be served and God may be glorified. And in this daily service of God, we may find pleasure, because we are fulfilling the purpose for which God made us.” – *Stafford Wright*

“In Christ... are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

– *The Apostle Paul*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – 1 Timothy 1:17

Wayne Blanding

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Praise

Holy Forever

Verse 1

A thousand generations falling down in
worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Pre-Chorus

(Jesus) Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

Chorus 1

And the angels cry Holy
All creation cries Holy
You are lifted high Holy
Holy forever

Verse 2

If you've been forgiven and if you've been
redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His
name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing Holy
To the King of Kings Holy
You will always be Holy
Holy forever

Pre-Chorus

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

Tag

You will always be Holy
Holy forever

"Holy Forever" words and music by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham
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Only a Holy God

Verse 1

Who else commands all the hosts of
heaven
Who else could make every king bow
down
Who else can whisper and darkness
trembles
Only a Holy God

Verse 2

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendour outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

Chorus

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Verse 3

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

Chorus

Verse 4

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only a Holy God

Chorus

“Only A Holy God” words and music by Dustin Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson
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Affirmation of Faith – *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

* that is, universal

Scripture Reading – *Psalms 139*

Barry Francisco

Prayer of Confession

Father, you have given us life, breath, and all that we have. Our community, our families, our resources, our responsibilities, and our talents are all gifts from your hand. Of eternal significance, you sent your Son so that we, by faith, could be part of your family. You are good, and every good and perfect gift comes from you. We confess to you our ingratitude. While the struggles of our lives are real, we are quicker to become anxious than we are to remain thankful. Forgive us for how quickly we forget your blessings and for how quickly we take your blessings for granted. Grant us the ability to daily remember the many blessings you have given us. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. We give thanks to you for all your blessings! Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness – *1 John 1:9*

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Be Still My Soul



1. Be still, my soul! The Lord is on thy side;
 2. Be still, my soul! Thy God doth un - der - take
 3. Be still, my soul! When dear - est friends de - part
 4. Be still, my soul! The hour is has - t'ning on
 5. Be still, my soul! Be - gin the song of praise

5 C/G F C/B \flat F/A B \flat C/G F



— Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy
 — to guide the fu - ture as He has the past. Thy hope, thy
 — and all is dark - ened in the vale of tears. Then shalt thou
 — when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap -
 — on earth be - liev - ing to thy Lord on high. Ac - knowl - edge

10 Dm F/A C Gm F/C

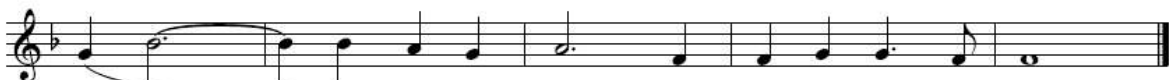


God to or - der and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He
 con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious
 bet - ter know His love, His heart; Who comes to soothe thy
 -point - ment, grief, and fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's
 Him in all thy words and ways; So shall He view thee

15 B \flat Gm/B \flat A F Dm F/A



faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul! Thy best, thy heav'n - ly
 shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still
 sor - row and thy fears. Be still, my soul! Thy Je - sus can re -
 pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul! When change and tears are
 with a well - pleased eye. Be still, my soul! The Sun of life di -



Friend _____ through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 know _____ His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
 -pay _____ from His own full - ness all He takes a - way.
 past, _____ all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.
 -vine _____ through pass - ing clouds shall but more bright - ly shine.

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.

Doxology:

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here, below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Scripture – *Ecclesiastes 3:9-13*

What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Sermon: Nothing Better Than Receiving God's Gifts

Pastor Erik Swanson

Series: Ecclesiastes

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

You've Already Won

Verse 1

There's peace that outlasts darkness
Hope that's in the blood
There's future grace that's mine today
That Jesus Christ has won

Verse 2

So I can face tomorrow
For tomorrow's in Your hands
All I need You will provide
Just like You always have

Chorus

I'm fighting a battle
You've already won
No matter what comes my way
I will overcome
Don't know what You're doing
But I know what You've done
I'm fighting a battle
You've already won

Verse 3

There's mercy in the waiting
Manna for today
And when it's gone I know You're not
You are my hope and stay

Verse 4

When the sea is raging
Your Spirit is my help
He'll fix my eyes on Jesus Christ
I'll say that it is well
Oh I know that it is well

Chorus

Bridge

I know how the story ends
We will be with You again
You're my Savior my defense
No more fear in life or death

Tag

I know how this story ends

Chorus

Tag

I'm fighting a battle You've already won

"You've Already Won" words and music by Brian Fowler, Shane Barnard
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Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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. 1/14 | 9:00 am | Sunday School for All Ages | Classrooms |
| Sun. 1/14 | 10:00 am | Corporate Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 1/14 | 11:30 am | Second Sunday Lunch | Fellowship Hall |
| Sun. 1/14 | 11:45 am | LEAP Meeting | Classroom 2 |
| Sun. 1/14 | 6:00 pm | Young Adult Gathering | Swanson Home |
| W. 1/17 | 9:00 am | Mom's + | Classroom 2 |
| W. 1/17 | 9:00 am | Wednesday Morning Bible Study | Classroom 1 |
| W. 1/17 | 7:00 pm | Music Team Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| W. 1/17 | 7:00 pm | Youth Discipleship Meeting | Classrooms 1 & 2 |
| Th. 1/18 | 11:15 am | Prayer Meeting | Resource Room |
| Th. 1/18 | 7:00 pm | Keystone Family Alliance Orientation | Aquarium |
| Th. 1/18 | 7:00 pm | Missions Meeting | Classroom 2 |
| Sat. 1/20 | 6:00 pm | SILVERS Movie Night | Classroom 1 |
| Sun. 1/21 | 9:00 am | Sunday School for All Ages | Classrooms |
| Sun. 1/21 | 10:00 am | Corporate Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 1/21 | 11:30 am | Congregational Meeting | Sanctuary |

Church Financial Summary 2023

| Category | Budget | Actual |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Year End 2023 | \$270,095.95 | \$345,733.14 |

Announcements, page 1 of 2

- **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!
- **New Life Communications:** Make sure you are receiving all the communication from New Life! We periodically send out congregational emails with dedicated information that does not show up in the bulletin announcements. In addition, we put out a weekly e-newsletter (New Life News) which sometimes includes information about the community at large. Thirdly, we have a private Facebook group where you can view pictures of events, etc. If you would like to be added to any of these three mediums, please contact the office via kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com.
- **Keystone Family Alliance** aims to bridge the gap between the desperate needs in the child welfare system and Pennsylvania churches. By engineering wraparound church Care Communities, Keystone Family Alliance provides tangible support, prayer, resources, and aid, resulting in foster families who are involved longer and stronger. There will be a meeting this **Thurs. Jan. 18** at 7pm at New Life to learn more about the possibility of New Life church journeying alongside a foster family as a Care Community. Nayer Abror will be taking those interested through the Care Community Volunteer Orientation (CCVO). Going through the CCVO doesn't commit you to being on a Care Community, but it will prepare everyone who attends to be able to join one without additional training. If you are interested in learning more about Keystone Alliance and serving in a Care Community, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the lobby. There is also a column to indicate if you are able to attend the Jan. 18 meeting. See any member of the Mercy team with questions. Keystone Family Alliance website: <https://www.keyfam.org/>
- **S.I.L.V.E.R.S. Movie Night:** Ages 56+ are invited to a movie night this **Sat. Jan. 20** at 6pm in Classroom 1 at the church. We will be watching *Fireproof*. Bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided.

(Announcements continue on next page)

Announcements, page 2 of 2

- **Congregational Meeting on January 21:** Please mark your calendars for next **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.
- **Souper Bowl Sunday:** In celebration of the Super Bowl, February's Second Sunday Lunch will consist of soup and sandwiches. See the sign-up sheet in the lobby.
- **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 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>

New Life Presbyterian Church, (717) 855-2360

970 Cape Horn Rd, York PA 17402

kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com