



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

February 25, 2024

Reflection

“As we make our way along the shadowy twists and turns of the way of lament, two questions confront us again and again. They are echoes of the experience of the first couple in the garden. If you dig deeply enough you will discover that one or both of them lie at the heart of every lament from Job’s to Jesus’. The two fundamental questions of complaint: God, where are you? (Presence) and God, if you love me, then why? ... But, you inevitably respond, Is it not wrong to complain by lamenting to God? Is it not a sign of rebellion and faithlessness? How can it be appropriate to show my anger to Him? These are all fair questions. But let me do what Jesus usually did and answer your question with another question: Why then, does God enshrine so many laments in His Word? Laments we must realize, are God’s Word. Why are so many biblical characters shown as disappointed and angry with God? Do we seek to learn from all the other facets of their lives but this? I would put it to you this way. People like Job, David, Jeremiah, and even Jesus, reveal to us that prayers of complaint can still be prayers of faith. They represent the last refusal to let go of the God who may seem to be absent or worse – uncaring. If this is true, then lament expresses one of the most intimate moments of faith – not a denial of it. It is supreme honesty before a God whom my faith tells me I can trust.” - *Michael Card*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – from Psalm 99

Will Pope

Minister: *The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble.*

People: **Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.**

Minister: *Let us praise your great and awesome name.*

People: **You are holy.**

Minister: *You, our King, are mighty, You love justice.*

People: **You have done what is just and right.**

Minister: *We will exalt You, our LORD and our God.*

People: **You are holy.**

Prayer of Praise

To God Be the Glory



1. To God be the glo - ry - great things He has done! So loved He the
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood - to ev - 'ry be -
 3. Great things He has taught us; Great things He has done, and great our re -

6 G A D D⁷ G D⁷ G G/B D



world that He gave us His Son, who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for
 - liev - er, the prom - ise of God. The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be -
 - joic - ing through Je - sus, the Son. But pur - er and high - er and great - er will

CHORUS

12 G G⁷ C G/D D⁷ G G



sin and o - pened the life gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord! Praise the
 - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

18 G/B D/A G D D/C G/B D/A



Lord! Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re -

24 G D⁷ G G/B D



- joice! O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus, the



Son, and give Him the glo - ry - great things He has done!

Great Things

Verse 1

Come let us worship our King
Come let us bow at His feet
He has done great things
See what our Savior has done
See how His love overcomes
He has done great things
He has done great things

Chorus

O Hero of Heaven You conquered the
grave
You free every captive and break every
chain
O God
You have done great things
We dance in Your freedom awake and
alive
O Jesus our Savior Your name lifted high
O God
You have done great things

Verse 2

You've been faithful through every storm
You'll be faithful forevermore
You have done great things
And I know You will do it again
For Your promise is yes and amen
You will do great things
God You do great things

Chorus

Bridge

Hallelujah God above it all
Hallelujah God unshakable
Hallelujah You have done great things
(REPEAT)
You've done great things

Chorus

Ending

You have done great things
O God You do great things

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Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism 27-28

27. Q. *What do you understand by the providence of God?*

A. God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

28. Q. *What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?*

A. We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from His love; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move.

Scripture Reading – Psalm 10

Wayne Blanding

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Father, if our hope were in ourselves, we would be undone. But your eyes are on those who fear you. Those that seek your mercy will find it. Those that cry out for mercy will find that you are a loving and gracious Father. Our hope is in your unfailing love. Have mercy, we pray. We pray in Jesus' name, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you would have mercy on us and that you would fill us, so that we might live as your sons and daughters. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

He Will Hold Me Fast

Verse 1

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 2

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight

He will hold me fast

He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Chorus

Verse 3

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

Chorus 2x

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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 – Lamentations 3:1-33

I am the man who has seen affliction
under the rod of his wrath;
² he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
³ surely against me he turns his hand
again and again the whole day long.
⁴ He has made my flesh and my skin
waste away;
he has broken my bones;
⁵ he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;
⁶ he has made me dwell in darkness
like the dead of long ago.
⁷ He has walled me about so that I cannot
escape;
he has made my chains heavy;
⁸ though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;
⁹ he has blocked my ways with blocks of
stones;
he has made my paths crooked.
¹⁰ He is a bear lying in wait for me,
a lion in hiding;
¹¹ he turned aside my steps and tore me
to pieces;
he has made me desolate;
¹² he bent his bow and set me
as a target for his arrow.
¹³ He drove into my kidneys
the arrows of his quiver;
¹⁴ I have become the laughingstock of all
peoples,
the object of their taunts all day long.
¹⁵ He has filled me with bitterness;
he has sated me with wormwood.
¹⁶ He has made my teeth grind on gravel,
and made me cower in ashes;

¹⁷ my soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
¹⁸ so I say, “My endurance has perished;
so has my hope from the LORD.”
¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my
wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!
²⁰ My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.
²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
²² The steadfast love of the LORD never
ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”
²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for
him,
to the soul who seeks him.
²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
²⁷ It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.
²⁸ Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;
²⁹ let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;
³⁰ let him give his cheek to the one who
strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.
³¹ For the Lord will not
cast off forever,
³² but, though he cause grief, he will have
compassion
according to the abundance of his

steadfast love;
³³ for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

Sermon: The Wise Person Weeps in Suffering

Mark Deckard

Sermon Notes

Prayer:

Great is Thy faithfulness
O God my Father
There is no shadow
Of turning with Thee
Thou changest not
Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been
Thou forever wilt be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1. Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest; Sun, moon and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thy own dear

6 C/E C D/A A⁷ D⁷ G G⁷ C G⁷/C C Dm C/E



shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in man - i - fold
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to - day and bright hope for to -

CHORUS

12 Fmaj⁷ F#^{o7} C/G G⁷ C G



fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be. Great is Thy
 wit - ness to Thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.
 -mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

18 F/C C A⁷ Gm/D Dm G⁷ C Cm⁶ G/D D⁷



faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I

24 G G⁷ C G⁷/C C Dm C/E Fmaj⁷



see; All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed-



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
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!

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This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 2/25	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/25	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 2/25	11:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 2/25	5:30 pm	Women's Book Club Dinner	Kay Home
Sun. 2/25	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home
W. 2/28	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
W. 2/28	9:00 am	Mom's +	Classroom 2
W. 2/28	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 2/28	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 2/29	9:30 am	Women's In-Person Bible Study	Aquarium
Th. 2/29	11:15 am	Prayer Meeting	Resource Room
Th. 2/29	7:00 pm	Women's Zoom Bible Study	Zoom
Sat. 3/2	6:00 pm	New Attendees' Gathering	Kay Home
Sun. 3/3	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 3/3	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/3	11:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/3	11:30 am	Photo-Taking for Directory	Classroom 4
Sun. 3/3	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Kay & Loht Homes

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2024	\$46,926.88	\$46,996.69
Week of 2/18/24	\$6,703.84	\$8,631.00

Announcements, page 1 of 2

- **Women's Book Club:** Join us **tonight** as we discuss *All My Knotted-Up Life* by Beth Moore. Dinner begins at 5:30pm at the home of Connie Kay.
- **Women's Bible Study:** The new study in Luke begins this week, **Thurs. Feb. 29**. It is never too late to join this vibrant group of ladies who love God's Word. Remember there are 2 groups, morning at the church and evening on Zoom. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marlene Spark.
- **New Attendees Gathering:** Whether you've worshipped at New Life for one week or one year, please come to the new attendees gathering at the Kay's home on **Sat. March 2** at 6pm for hors d'oeuvres and conversation.
- **NLPC Spring Picture Directory:** It's almost time for a new NLPC directory! If you would like to add or update your picture for the next edition, you can either submit a photo to kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com, or have your picture taken in Classroom 4 after church on **March 3 or 10**. An old draft of the directory is in the lobby through March 10 so you can make your additions or updates to your information.
- **Easter Flowers:** Help the church look beautiful on Easter by purchasing a 6-inch tulip or daffodil! You can sign up in the lobby and give payment (\$11 per flower) to Steve Harman or Kelly Steenstra. Last day to place an order is **Sun. March 10**. Take home after the service on Easter day.
- **Easter Egg-Stuffing Party:** To prepare for the March 23rd community-wide egg hunt, please join the egg-stuffing party on **Sun. March 10** at 6:30pm. The whole church is invited as we fill approximately 2,500 eggs.
- **SILVERS:** Save the date! Join us for lunch at Lion's Pride Restaurant (20 Dairyland Square, Red Lion) on **Sat. March 16** at 1:30pm. Please sign up in the lobby if you plan to join us. Questions? Contact Mel King or Alice Lomax.

(continued on next page)

Announcements, page 2 of 2

- **Youth & Young Adult Game Night:** The Young Adults would like to invite the youth group to join them at 5pm on **Sat. March 16** for an evening of games and fellowship. Snacks will be provided by the young adults; all are invited to bring a favorite board game. Pick up for the youth is at 8:30pm.
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Our annual Easter Egg hunt will be **Sat. March 23** (Rain Date March 30). Doors open at 10am, with the hunt beginning at 10:30. Ages 0-10 are invited! Please invite your community, and please consider signing up to help (erik@newlifeyorkpca.com).

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

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

Women's Bible Study: This spring we are studying the gospel of Luke using the guide *Luke: Knowing For Sure, Volume 2 (Chapters 11-24), A 13-Lesson Study*. Dates and Times: Thursdays 9:30-11am at church, or 7-8:30pm 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 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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