

# *New Life Presbyterian Church*

Embrace God's Beauty.  
Extend God's Love.

December 22, 2024



# 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.

*Please be aware that we livestream our services.*

# Worshiping God

December 22, 2024

## Reflection:

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. - *The Prophet Micah*

## Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

## Prelude

## Call to Worship – from Luke 1

*Minister: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel.*

**People: He has come and redeemed his people.**

*Minister: He has raised up a strong arm of salvation for us.*

**People: Through the house of his servant David, he has saved us from all our enemies.**

*Minister: He has remembered his covenant with Abraham, and enabled us to serve him without fear,*

**People: To serve him in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

*Minister: He has saved us through His Son, Christ the Lord.*

**People: O come let us adore Him! O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

## Prayer of Praise

# 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

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 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

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

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

## Verse 1

You stepped down from heaven  
Humbly You came  
God of all creation  
Here with us  
In a starlit manger Emmanuel  
Light of the world here to save

## Chorus

Adore  
Come let us adore  
O come let us adore Him  
The Lord  
Worship Christ the Lord  
Let all that is within us adore

## Verse 2

Wise men bring their treasures  
Shepherds bow low  
Angel voices sing  
Of peace on earth  
What have I to offer to heaven's King  
I will bring my life my love my all

## Chorus

Adore  
Come let us adore  
O come let us adore Him  
The Lord  
Worship Christ the Lord  
Let all that is within us adore

## Bridge

Angels sing praises ring  
To the newborn King  
Peace on earth here with us  
Joy awakening  
At Your feet we fall  
(REPEAT)

## Chorus

Adore  
Come let us adore  
O come let us adore Him  
The Lord  
Worship Christ the Lord  
Let all that is within us adore

"Adore" words and music by Graham Kendrick, Martin Chalk  
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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### ***Prayer***

Pour forth your power, O Lord, and come:  
Assist us by that mighty power,  
so that by your grace and merciful kindness  
we may swiftly receive the salvation that our sins impede:  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

*Four candles are lit.*

### ***Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-13***

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns!;

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

<sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

<sup>11</sup> Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> But you will not leave in haste or go in flight; for the LORD will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

<sup>13</sup> See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

### ***Prayer of Response***

**All: O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ,  
all things are in your hands,  
come and show us the way to salvation.**

# What Child Is This?



1. What Child is this, — who laid to rest, — on Mar - y's lap — is  
 2. Why lies He in — such mean es - tate — where ox and ass — are  
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh; — Come, peas - ant, king, — to

4 B Em D/F# G D Em Am B



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet — with an - thems sweet, — while shep - herds watch — are  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear — for sin - ners here, — the si - lent Word — is  
 own — Him. The King of kings — sal - va - tion brings; — Let lov - ing hearts — en -

8 E<sup>SUS</sup> Em Bm G D Em Am/C



keep - ing? This, this — is Christ the King, — whom shep - herds guard — and  
 plead - ing. Nails, spear — shall pierce Him through, — the cross be borne — for  
 - throne Him. Raise, raise — the song on high; — The Vir - gin sings — her

12 B Bm G D Em Am B E<sup>SUS</sup> Em



an - gels sing. Haste, haste — to bring Him laud, — the Babe, — the Son — of Mar - y.  
 me, for you. Hail, hail — the Word made flesh, — the Babe, — the Son — of Mar - y.  
 lull - a - by. Joy, joy — for Christ is born, — the Babe, — the Son — of Mar - y.

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.

### Special Music: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#### Verse 1

Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded  
For with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth  
Our full homage to demand

#### Verse 2

King of Kings yet born of Mary  
As of old on earth he stood  
Lord of lords in human vesture  
In the Body and the Blood  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food

#### Verse 3

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away

#### Verse 4

At his feet the six-winged seraph  
Cherubim with sleepless eye  
Veil their faces to the Presence  
As with ceaseless voice they cry  
Alleluia alleluia  
Alleluia Lord Most High

#### Tag

Alleluia alleluia  
Alleluia Lord Most High

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" words and music by Dave Moore, Gerard Moultrie, Lauren Moore  
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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** – *Genesis 1:26-27; 2:15-17; 3:8-24*

<sup>1:26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them....

<sup>2:15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” ...

<sup>3:8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup> The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever – ”

<sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Sermon: “The Chief End of Man”**

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

**Series: *Foundations in Genesis***

**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**

# Christmas Medley

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Savior  
was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head;  
the stars in the sky  
looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me I pray;  
bless all the dear children  
in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven,  
to live with Thee there.

Our God heav'n cannot hold Him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed,  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him? Give my heart.

O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

For You alone are worthy,  
for You alone are worthy,  
for You alone are worthy, 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

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace;  
chains shall He break,  
for the slave is our brother,  
and in His name  
all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy  
in grateful chorus raise we,  
let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord,  
O praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

Fall on your knees  
O hear the angel voices  
O night divine  
O night when Christ was born  
O night O holy night  
O night divine

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## **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!**

## **Postlude**

## This Week at New Life

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sun. 12/22	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/22	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/22	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home
M. 12/23	6:30 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Tu. 12/24	5:30 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Tu. 12/24	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship	Sanctuary
Th. 12/26	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 12/29	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary

## Church Financial Summary

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Year to Date 2024</b>	\$335,192.00	\$383,477.92
<b>Week of 12/15/24</b>	\$6,703.84	\$11,879.17

## Announcements

- **Christmas Eve Service:** Join us **this Tues. Dec. 24** for a traditional service of lessons, carols, and candle lighting at 6:30pm on Christmas eve.
- **Sunday School on Christmas Break:** All Sunday School classes - adults, youth, and children - will be on Christmas break next Sun. Dec. 29. Classes will resume on Jan. 5.
- **Missionary Visit:** On **Sun. Jan. 5** Joel & Stephanie Swanson will be doing a presentation during Sunday School. Joel & Stephanie both served several years with Mission to the World (MTW), most recently in Paris, France. As they wrap up their final home assignment with MTW they would like to take the opportunity to thank New Life for our support as well as to report on how they've seen Christ working in the church in France. Please join us for this final presentation from the Swansons before they embark on new ministry journeys.
- **Moms+:** We are on break for the holidays and will resume on **Wed. Jan. 8**. Contact Joy Swanson or the office with any questions.
- **Congregational Meeting on Sun. Jan. 19:** Please mark your calendars for a congregational meeting on **Sun. Jan. 19**. The meeting will be at 11:30am in the sanctuary. This annual meeting will cover three matters: a look back at 2024, a look ahead to 2025, and a presentation of the 2025 budget. As part of the budget, the congregation will deliberate and vote on a proposed change in the pastor's terms of call. All are invited to attend; only members may deliberate and vote.
- **Men's Retreat:** Men (and older sons), mark your calendars for a men's retreat the weekend of **Fri. Jan. 31 – Sun. Feb. 2**. After work, travel to Camp Hebron near Halifax for a weekend of teaching, worship, fellowship, and activities. Final cost will depend on the number of attendees; approximate cost is \$80 per person. Contact Pastor Erik for more information and to sign up.
- **Women's Winter Book Club:** This winter we will be reading *Captive in Iran: A Remarkable True Story of Hope and Triumph amid the Horror of Tehran's Brutal Evin Prison* by Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh. Read at your own pace, then join us for dinner and a discussion in **late February or early March** (exact date TBD). Contact Connie Kay or the office with any questions.
- **Refreshments:** Thank you to all who provided post-service refreshments last quarter! A new sign-up sheet for January through March is on the table in the foyer. The current schedule still hangs next to the foyer Christmas tree.

## Groups for Fellowship and Growth

**Christian Education: Youth and Children's classes:** Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> meets in classroom 5, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> meets in classroom 4, 5-8<sup>th</sup> meets in classroom 3, and 9-12<sup>th</sup> meets in classroom 1. **Two adult classes this fall:** one studying 1 Samuel and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other studying the book *Biblical Critical Theory* and meeting in Classroom 2.

**Women's Bible Study:** Please contact Marlene Spark or the office for details on our upcoming spring study.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** Interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text? Join us at New Life in Classroom 1 at 9am.

**Moms+:** We are on break for the holidays and will resume on **Wed. Jan. 8**. Contact Joy Swanson or the office with any questions.

**Men's Group:** Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 7-8am in the fellowship hall.

**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 or the office. The daytime group meets every **Thursday** (except the Thursday that follows the Wednesday evening prayer group) at 11am. Contact Sue Rothermel or the office.

**Bible Study Fellowship (BSF):** Contact Will Pope or the office 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.