



**NEW LIFE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love**

December 29, 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.*

# Worshipping God

December 29, 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

*Joe Heidler*

## Prelude

### Call to Worship – from Psalm 99

*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

# 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."

# Manger Throne

## Verse 1

You could have stepped into creation  
With fire for all to see  
Brought every tribe and nation  
to their knees  
Arriving with the host of heaven  
In royal robe and crown  
The rulers of the earth all bowing down

## Pre-Chorus

But You chose meekness over majesty  
Wrapped Your power in humanity

## Chorus

Glory be to You alone  
King who reigns from a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

## Verse 2

You could have marched in all Your glory  
Into the heart of Rome  
Showed them splendor  
like they'd never known  
But You wrote a better story  
In humble Bethlehem  
Creator in the arms of common men

## Pre-Chorus

You will die for our redemption  
And You'll rise so we can live

## Chorus

Glory be to You alone  
King who reigns from a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

## Bridge

From heaven to the cradle  
From cradle to the cross  
Let heaven and nature sing  
This is our King  
But the grave couldn't hold Him  
Our God has overcome  
Let heaven and nature sing  
This is our King  
(REPEAT)

All hail the King  
All hail the King  
All hail the King

## Chorus

Glory be to You alone  
King who reigns from a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

## Ending

My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

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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.*

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King";  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.  
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



## Prayers of the People

### 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 – *Matthew 1:1-17*

**1** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, **4** and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **5** and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, **6** and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, **7** and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, **8** and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, **9** and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, **10** and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, **11** and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

**12** And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, **13** and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, **14** and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, **15** and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, **16** and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

**17** So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

**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 I Corinthians 11***

*Minister:*      *Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.*

**All:**            **Christ has died.**  
                     **Christ has risen.**  
                     **Christ will come again.**

## **Communing Together**

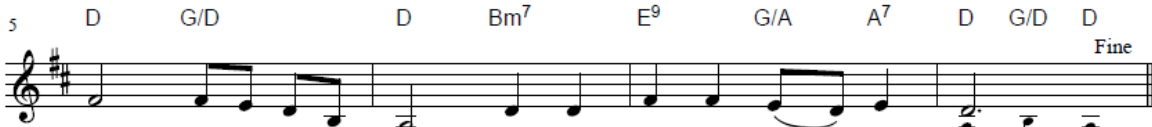
The elders and deacons will serve you in your seats. Please hold the elements so that we can partake together after all have been served. Use the extra time during communion for prayer and reflection.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

# Go Tell It on the Mountain



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



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

## VERSE



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



-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 – 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. 12/29	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
W. 1/1	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 1/2	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 3
Sun. 1/5	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 1/5	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 1/5	11:30 am	Giant Cards for Sale	Foyer
Sun. 1/5	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes

## Church Financial Summary

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Year to Date 2024</b>	\$341,895.84	\$391,646.06
<b>Week of 12/22/24</b>	\$6,703.84	\$8,168.14

## Announcements

- **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.
- **Evening Prayer Meeting:** Due to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month landing on New Year's Day, the evening prayer group will meet instead this **Thurs. Jan. 2** at 7pm.
- **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 Amirzadeh. 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 this quarter! A new sign-up sheet for January through March is hanging on the bulletin board in the foyer.

## 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.

# 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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