

# *New Life Presbyterian Church*

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

December 8, 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 8, 2024

## Reflection:

On this eve of Christmas, whether you feel yourself to be surrounded by earthly blessings or whether you feel your blessings to be few, set aside those thoughts and concerns long enough to remember what it is that we are celebrating: God's loving plan to bring you home to himself, through the gift of Jesus Christ. - *Nancy Guthrie*

## Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

## Prelude

## Call to Worship – from Psalm 96:1-9

*Joe Heidler*

*Minister: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!*

**People: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

*Minister: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!*

**People: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.**

*Minister: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.*

**People: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

*Minister: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!*

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

**All: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!**

## Prayer of Praise

# Lift Up Your Heads

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot  
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the  
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 is hu - mil - i - ty; his king - ly crown is  
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.  
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

# 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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***Prayer***

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,  
to prepare the paths of your Only-begotten Son:  
that we may worthily serve you  
with hearts purified by His coming:  
Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

***Scripture: Micah 5:2-5***

<sup>2</sup> But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.

***Prayer of Response***

**All: O King of all nations, Jesus Christ,  
only joy of every heart,  
come and save your people.**

# 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  
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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.

#### **Special Music: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to men a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God;  
From sin and death he saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
E'er blooming  
E'er blooming

Arranged by Chris Wirt  
Words and Music in the Public Domain

#### **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 1:31-2:4**

<sup>1:31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

**Sermon: “The Rhythm of Time”**

*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**

# Even So Come

## Verse 1

All of creation all of the earth  
Make straight a highway  
    a path for the Lord  
Jesus is coming soon

## Verse 2

Call back the sinner wake up the saint  
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame  
Jesus is coming soon

## Chorus 1

Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come

## Verse 3

There will be justice all will be new  
Your name forever faithful and true  
Jesus is coming soon

## Chorus 1

Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come

## Bridge

So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
(REPEAT)

## Chorus 2

Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come

"Even So Come" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jason  
Ingram, Jess Cates  
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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

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 12/8	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/8	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/8	11:30 am	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12/8	12:00 pm	Young Adult Bible Study	Classroom 2
Sun. 12/8	5:00 pm	Christmas Caroling	Meet at New Life
Sun. 12/8	6:00 pm	Youth Group Christmas Party	Fellowship Hall
W. 12/11	7:00 am	Men's Group	Fellowship Hall
W. 12/11	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 12/11	9:45 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
W. 12/11	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 12/11	7:00 pm	Inquirers' Class	Aquarium
Th. 12/12	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 12/15	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/15	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/15	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes

### Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
<b>Year to Date 2024</b>	\$321,784.32	\$365,101.45
<b>Week of 12/1/24</b>	\$6,703.84	\$7,901.00

## Announcements

- **Christmas Events at New Life:**
  - **December Christmas Luncheon:** In lieu of our regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday lunch **TODAY**, we will be holding a festive Christmas luncheon.
  - **Christmas Caroling:** Meet at New Life at 5pm **TONIGHT Sun. Dec. 8** for an hour of caroling in the neighborhood next to the church.
  - **Christmas Eve Service:** A traditional service of lessons, carols, and candle lighting at 6:30pm on Christmas eve.
- **Advent and Christmas Music:** Have you ever wished you knew the songs we sing each week in worship a little better? Well, here is your chance! There is now a playlist of many of the songs we will sing to the Lord this Advent and Christmas on New Life's YouTube channel. Just go to New Life's YouTube channel (@newlifepresbyterianchurch2087), click on "Playlists", and open "Songs of Worship for Advent and Christmas--New Life Presbyterian Church". "Let every heart prepare Him room!"
- **Moms+:** Our last meeting for 2024 will be **this Wed. Dec. 11**; then we will break for the holidays and resume on **Jan. 8**. Contact Joy Swanson with any questions.
- **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 with any questions.

## 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+:** The fall study and kids' classes meet every Wednesday from 9:45-11:45am. Questions? Contact Joy Swanson or the office.

**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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