

# *New Life Presbyterian Church*

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

December 7, 2025



# 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. Jesus welcomed children in worship, and so do we! Having said that, here are some additional options for parents:

- + There is a staffed nursery, off the fellowship hall, for children ages 0-4.
- + A private “nursing moms” alcove is available in the nursery.
- + Classroom 1 is a “Wiggle Room” for parents who desire a place to temporarily be with their young ones while still being able to watch the livestream.

*Please be aware that we livestream our services.*

# Worshiping God

December 7, 2025

## Reflection

God could, had He pleased, have been incarnate in a man of iron nerves, the Stoic sort who lets no sigh escape him. Of His great humility He chose to be incarnate in a man of delicate sensibilities who wept at the grave of Lazarus and sweated blood in Gethsemane. Otherwise we should have missed the great lesson that it is by his will alone that a man is good or bad, and that feelings are not, in themselves, of any importance. We should also have missed the all-important help of knowing that He has faced all that the weakest of us face, has shared not only the strength of our nature but every weakness of it except sin. If He had been incarnate in a man of immense natural courage, that would have been for many of us almost the same as His not being incarnate at all. — *C.S. Lewis*

## Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

## Prelude

### Call to Worship – from Luke 1 (The Song of Zechariah)

*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

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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.

# 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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***Prayer***

Our Father, we do hope in Christ and the work of redemption that was accomplished in His coming to earth, life, death on the cross and resurrection. But we struggle with the difficulties of this fallen world where there is tragedy all around us. Help us to experience your peace, *“the peace of God that surpasses all understanding”* (Philippians 4:7), that we can only find in Christ who came and dwelt among us. Amen.

*(Light two purple candles.)*

***Scripture: John 1:9-16***

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

<sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

<sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

<sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

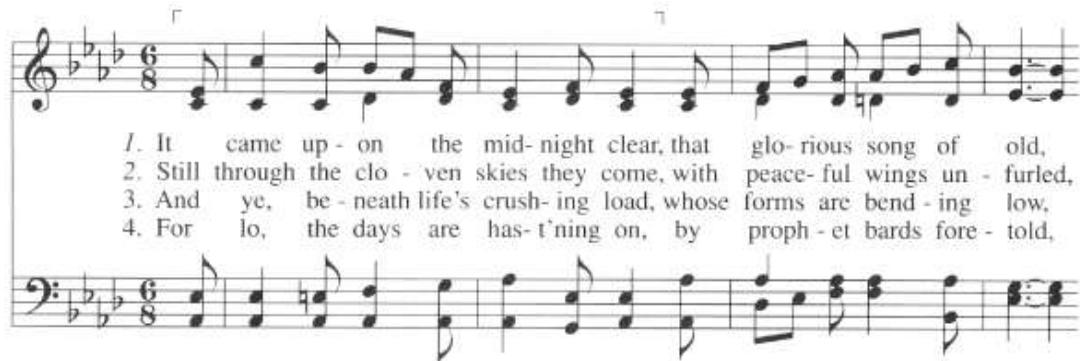
<sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)

<sup>16</sup>For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

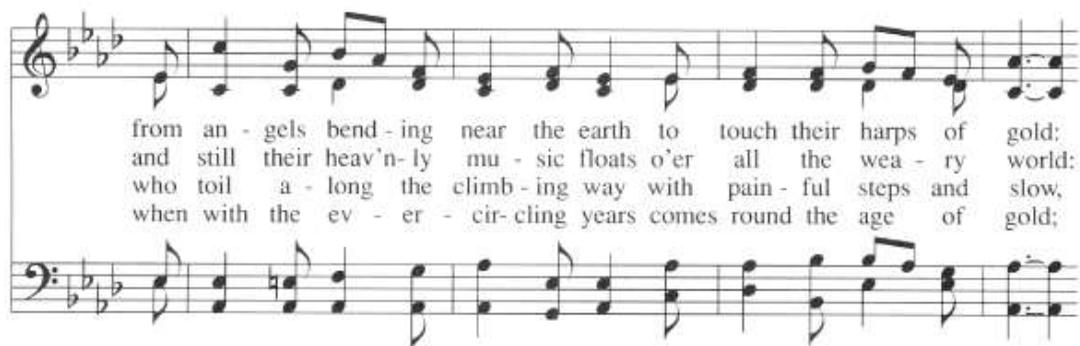
***Prayer of Response***

**Father God, there is no deep and lasting peace in our world and our lives apart from you. Help us to accept Christ as the One who gives us true peace through His finished work. And strengthen us to be Your peacemakers in this world as we share the message of reconciliation to God through Christ this Advent season.**

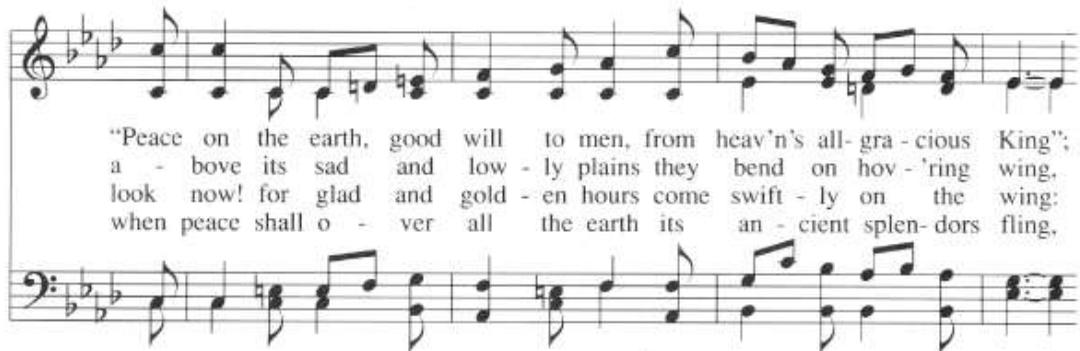
# It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



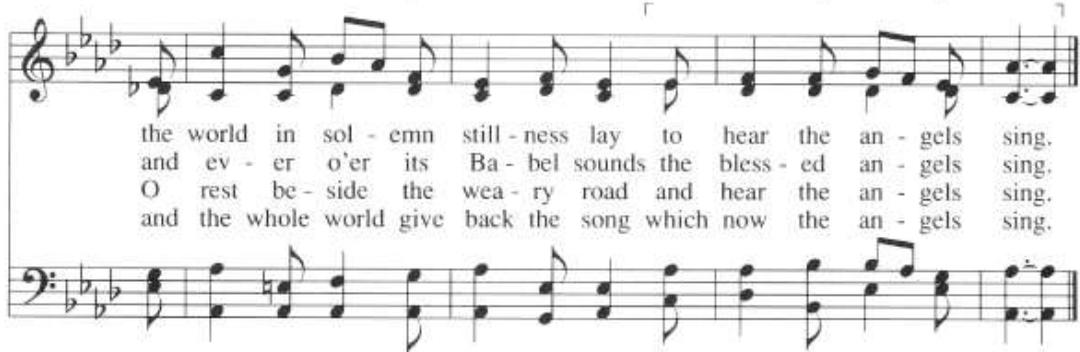
1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards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

## Ministry Moment – Servants

*Kiel Reese*

### 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 – O Come All You Unfaithful

### Verse 1

O come all you unfaithful  
Come weak and unstable  
Come know you are not alone

### Verse 2

O come barren and waiting ones  
Weary of praying  
Come see what your God has done

### Chorus

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

### Verse 3

O come bitter and broken  
Come with fears unspoken  
Come taste of His perfect love

### Verse 4

O come guilty and hiding ones  
There is no need to run  
See what your God has done

### Chorus

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

### Bridge

He's the Lamb who was given slain for  
our pardon  
His promise is peace for those who  
believe  
He's the Lamb who was given slain for  
our pardon  
His promise is peace for those who  
believe

### Verse 5

So come though you have nothing  
Come He is the offering  
Come see what your God has done

### Chorus

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you (Repeat)

“O Come All You Unfaithful” words and music by Bob Kauflin,  
Lisa Clow  
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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** – James 1:1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:  
Greetings.

**Sermon:** James, Servant of the Savior

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

**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 is 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

## 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.*

## 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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## The Sending

*Minister: Go in peace, to love and serve the LORD.*

*All: Thanks be to God!*

## Postlude

\*\* Would you like to pray with someone today about a need? Following the service a PRAYER TEAM member is available to pray with you. Find them up front to the right of the stage.\*\*

## This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 12/7	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/7	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/7	11:30 am	Giant Cards for sale	Foyer
Sun. 12/7	11:45 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/7	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
Wed. 12/10	9:00 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
Wed. 12/10	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 12/10	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 3
Wed. 12/10	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/14	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/14	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/14	11:30 am	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12/14	11:45 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/14	7:00 pm	Caroling	New Life Neighborhood

## Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
<b>Year to Date 2025</b>	\$396,923.04	\$395,782.98
<b>Week of 11/30/25</b>	\$8,269.23	\$4,596.00

## Announcements, page 1 of 2

- ❖ **Welcome to Justin, Jenny, Eliana, and Lucas!**
- ❖ **GriefShare Class:** NLPC is considering offering a group for those who are walking through the process of grieving. The group would meet for 13 weeks. It would cover the "GriefShare" program, including video teaching, homework, and opportunity for discussion and sharing. While other churches in York County offer this program, New Life is considering offering it if there are at least four committed participants. Please contact Pastor Erik for more information.
- ❖ **Advent and Christmas at New Life:**
  - + **Daily Advent Devotional Book:** Pick up a copy of a daily advent devotional, written by the NLPC community.
  - + **Christmas Luncheon:** In lieu of our regular 2nd Sunday lunch, **next Sun. Dec. 14** NLPC will be coordinating a Christmas Luncheon. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please bring items in crockpots or casserole dishes to keep warm in oven. Oven will not be available to bake items, just to keep food warm. For questions see Shyrl Tompkins or Suzanne Harman.
  - + **Caroling in the Community:** Meet at NLPC **next Sun. Dec. 14** at 7pm to go caroling in the community around the church.
  - + **Open House at Swansons':** Come to the Swanson home on **Sat. Dec. 20**, from 3-7pm for a festive time of fellowship. We will sing carols together at 6pm.
  - + **Children's Choir:** All NLPC children from age 4 to 8th grade are invited to help lead worship on **Sun. Dec. 21**. In preparation, we will be rehearsing every Sunday between now and December 21st beginning about 15 minutes after the end of the worship service and running for 30 to 45 minutes. Questions? Please talk to either Catherine Kloetzli, Ellen Metzger, Elissa Ryan, or Jenn Ryan.
- ❖ **Men's Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Fri. Jan. 23 through Sun. Jan. 25, 2026**.
- ❖ **Winter Women's Book Club:** This winter, read at your own pace and then join us for a dinner and discussion in **late February or early March**. We will be discussing the book *Running to the Fire: Helping in Jesus' Name* by Ken Isaacs.

**(Announcements continue on next page.)**

## Announcements, page 2 of 2

- ❖ **Short-Term Mission Opportunity:** New Life is partnering with Servants and Baptist on Mission for a short-term trip to assist with hurricane recovery efforts in western North Carolina from **Sun. Apr. 12 through Sat. Apr. 18**. See Nathan Raine for more information.
- ❖ **Refreshments:** Thanks to all those who helped out with Sunday refreshments last quarter! You will find a new sheet for sign-ups in the foyer. Sign up with some friends to make it easier, and please keep it simple.

## 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:** one studying 2 Corinthians and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other studying Job and meeting in Classroom 2.

**Women's Bible Study:** Our fall session has ended. Stay tuned for details on the spring study. Contact Marlene Spark with questions.

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

**Moms+:** Women, please join us at the church on Wednesday mornings from 9-11am. Childcare and Bible classes for your kids are also provided.

**Men's Breakfast** is in transition. Stay tuned for details.

**Youth Group:** Please contact the church office for information.

**Prayer Small Group:** NLPC has two ongoing opportunities dedicated to prayer. In the midday, prayer meets on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays** from 11am-12pm in classroom 1. In the evenings, prayer meets on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** from 7-8pm in the classroom 3. Sherry Rishel is the point of contact.

**Bible Study Fellowship (BSF):** Contact Elder Will Pope 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  
Deacons Team 2025/26**

**Lead Deacon**

Steve Harman

**Benevolence Team**

Jim Borch

Kiel Reese

Dave Lomax

Blaine Marsh

Leon Leader

**Property Management**

**Interior Team**

Roger Kay

Dan Paules

Ray Henry

Dennis Tompkins

**Exterior Team**

Dave Lomax

Dennis Tompkins

Leon Leader

Ray Henry

**Utility Team**

Ed Feeney

Blaine Marsh

Roger Kay