



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026

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 be with their children who need to wiggle while still being able to watch the livestream.

Please be aware that we livestream our services.

Worshiping God

April 5, 2026

Reflections

Jesus was the only One that ever raised the dead and He shouldn't have done it. He thrown everything off balance. If He did what he said, then it's nothing for you to do but throw away everything and follow Him, and if He didn't, then it's nothing for you to do but enjoy the few minutes you got left the best way you can. — Flannery O'Connor

Those who celebrate the mighty resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, therefore, have an awesome responsibility. When we say, "Alleluia! Christ is risen," we are saying that Jesus is Lord of the world, and that the present would-be lords of the world are not. When we sing, in the old hymn, that "Judah's Lion burst his chains, and crushed the serpent's head," are we ready to put that victory into practice? ...Are we ready to speak up for the truth of the gospel over the dinner table, and in the coffee bar, and in the council chamber? Let's make no bones about it: if Easter isn't good news, then there is no good news. But if it is—if it is true that Jesus Christ is risen indeed—then Easter day, and the Easter message, is the true sun which, when it rises, puts all others suns to shame. — N.T. Wright

I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. - The Apostle Paul

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Revelation 1:17-18

Elder Wayne Blanding

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - - le - lu - ia!

sons of men and an - gels say; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has burst the gates of hell; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head; Al - - - le - lu - ia!

raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 death in vain for - bids his rise; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 made like him, like him we rise; Al - - - le - lu - ia!

sing ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply. Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - - le - lu - ia!

This Is Our God

Verse 1

Remember those walls that we called sin
and shame

They were like prisons that we couldn't
escape

But He came and He died and He rose

Those walls are rubble now

Remember those giants we called death
and grave

They were like mountains that stood in
our way

But He came and He died and He rose

Those giants are dead now

Chorus

This is our God this is who He is

He loves us

This is our God this is what He does

He saves us

He bore the cross beat the grave

Let heaven and earth proclaim

This is our God King Jesus

Verse 2

Remember that fear that took our breath
away

Faith so weak that we could barely pray

But He heard every word every whisper

Now those altars in the wilderness

Tell the story of His faithfulness

Never once did He fail and He never will

Chorus

This is our God this is who He is

He loves us

This is our God this is what He does

He saves us

He bore the cross beat the grave

Let heaven and earth proclaim

This is our God King Jesus

Bridge 1

Who pulled me out of that pit

He did He did

Who paid for all of our sin

Nobody but Jesus

(REPEAT)

Bridge 2

Who rescued me from that grave

Yahweh Yahweh

Who gets the glory and praise

Nobody but Jesus

Who rescued me from that grave

Yahweh Yahweh

Who gets the glory and praise

Nobody but Him

Chorus

This is our God this is who He is

He loves us

This is our God this is what He does

He saves us

He bore the cross beat the grave

Let heaven and earth proclaim

This is our God King Jesus

Ending

He bore the cross beat the grave

Let heaven and earth proclaim

This is our God King Jesus

"This Is Our God" words and music by Brandon Lake, Pat Barrett, Phil Wickham, Steven Furtick

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Affirmation of Faith – Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 38

Q: *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?*

A: **At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.**

Scripture Reading – Matthew 28:1-10

Ethan Waldrop

Reader: *This is the word of the LORD.*

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Confession – by Martin Bucer

Minister: *O God the Father of heaven,*

People: **have mercy upon us.**

Minister: *O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,*

People: **have mercy upon us.**

Minister: *O God the Holy Spirit,*

People: **have mercy upon us.**

Be merciful to us and spare us, O Lord.

Be merciful to us and deliver us, O Lord.

Minister: *From all sin, from all error, from all evil –*

People: **deliver us, O Lord.**

Minister: *From the wiles of the devil and from everlasting death –*

People: **deliver us, O Lord.**

Minister: *Lord Jesus, by the mystery of your holy incarnation,*

by your holy nativity,

by your baptism, fasting, and temptation -

People: **deliver us, O Lord.**

Minister: *By your agony and bloody sweat,*

by your cross and passions,

by your death and burial,

by your resurrection and ascension,

by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter -

People: **deliver us, O Lord. Amen**

Assurance of Forgiveness – Psalm 40:11

*As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain
Your mercy from me;
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will
Ever preserve me!*

Christ Is Risen

Verse 1

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
But fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us
Freely You've bled for us

Chorus

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Verse 2

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold You down
In strength You reign
Forever let Your church proclaim

Chorus

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Bridge

O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
The glory of God has defeated the night
Singing O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
Our God is not dead He's alive He's alive

Chorus

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
(REPEAT)

"Christ Is Risen" words and music by Matt Maher, Mia Fieldes
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Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment

Prayer for the North Carolina Rebuild Team

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 – Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)

Verse 1

The moon and stars they wept
The morning sun was dead
The Savior of the world was fallen
His body on the cross
His blood poured out for us
The weight of every curse upon Him

Verse 2

One final breath He gave
As heaven looked away
The Son of God was laid in darkness
A battle in the grave
The war on death was waged
The power of hell forever broken

Pre-Chorus

The ground began to shake
The stone was rolled away
His perfect love could not be overcome
Now death where is your sting
Our resurrected King has rendered you
defeated

Chorus

Forever He is glorified
Forever He is lifted high
Forever He is risen
He is alive, He is alive

Pre-Chorus

The ground began to shake
The stone was rolled away
His perfect love could not be overcome
Now death where is your sting

Our resurrected King has rendered you
defeated

Chorus

Forever He is glorified
Forever He is lifted high
Forever He is risen
He is alive, He is alive

Bridge

We sing hallelujah, we sing hallelujah
We sing hallelujah, the Lamb has
overcome.
We sing hallelujah, we sing hallelujah
We sing hallelujah, the lamb has over
come.
We sing hallelujah, we sing hallelujah
We sing hallelujah, the Lamb has
overcome.
We sing hallelujah, we sing hallelujah
We sing hallelujah!

Chorus

Forever He is glorified
Forever He is lifted high
Forever He is risen
He is alive, He is alive
(REPEAT)

Ending

He is alive, He is alive.

“Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)” words and music by Brian Johnson, Christa Black Gifford, Gabriel Wilson, Jenn Johnson, Joel Taylor, Kari Jobe

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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 – John 11:17-53

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud

voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Sermon Notes

O Praise the Name

Verse 1

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

Verse 2

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Verse 3

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Verse 4

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God
(REPEAT)

Ending

O Lord oh Lord our God
O Lord oh Lord our God

"O Praise The Name (Anastasis)" words and music by Benjamin
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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.

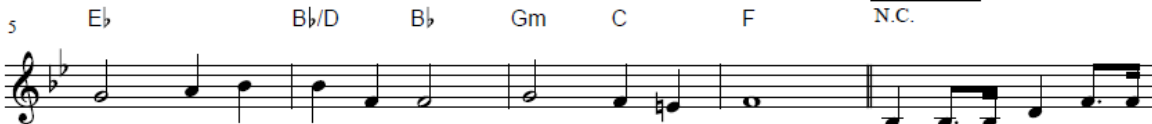
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Low in the Grave He Lay (Christ Arose)



1. Low in the grave He lay— Je - sus, my Sav - iour!
 2. Vain - ly they watch His bed— Je - sus, my Sav - iour!
 3. Death can - not keep his prey— Je - sus, my Sav - iour!

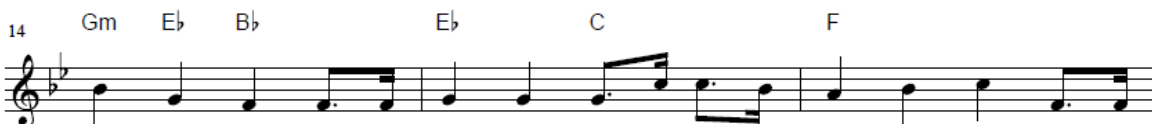
CHORUS



Wait - ing the com - ing day— Je - sus, my Lord! Up from the grave He a -
 Vain - ly they seal the dead— Je - sus, my Lord!
 He tore the bars a - way— Je - sus, my Lord!



-rose, with a might - y tri - umph o'er His foes. He a - rose a vic - tor from the



dark do - main, and He lives for - ev - er with His saints to reign. He a -



-rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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 platform.**

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 4/5	6:30 am	Sunrise Worship & Breakfast	Henry Home
Sun. 4/5	10:00 am	Easter Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 4/5	11:30 am	Giant cards for sale	Foyer
Tu. 4/7	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study	Aquarium
Tu. 4/7	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Tu. 4/7	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
W. 4/8	9:00 am	Moms +	Classroom 2
W. 4/8	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 4/8	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 4/12	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 4/12	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 4/12	11:30 am	2 nd Sunday Potluck	Fellowship Area

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2026	\$113,750.00	\$97,789.91
Week of 3/29/26	\$8,750.00	\$9,049.01

Announcements

- ❖ **Inquirers' Class:** On Sundays April 19th, 26th, May 3rd, and 17th, New Life will host an inquirers class for those interested in learning more about the church and who are possibly interested in membership. The class will meet from 11:30-12:15 in classroom 1. While an RSVP to the church office is not necessary, it would be helpful.
- ❖ **Servants Faith Beyond the Pews work week 2026:** Servants' annual Faith Beyond the Pews 2026 is happening **June 8-12**. Come help us practically serve our York neighbors through construction with opportunities to share the good news of Jesus! Online registration is available at <https://servants.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=104071> or by selecting RSVP at <https://www.servants.org/event-details/faith-beyond-the-pews>. Signups can be for the whole week or for individual days. Sign-ups are open now through early May. Servants work camps begin with an info session and ice cream social at the host site on Sunday evening. Monday through Friday are work days. Each morning begins at the host site with breakfast, a devotional, lunch packing, and tool/material pickup before heading to the assigned work sites. After serving for the day, teams return to the host site for dinner and a debrief where God-sightings from the day are shared. On Friday evening there is a celebration dinner and all volunteers and homeowners we worked with during the week are invited.
Other ways to help: New Life's Mercy Team coordinates a Taco dinner on **Thurs. June 11** to serve to all the hungry workers at 5pm. We need help serving dinner and also baking and providing desserts. Please see signup sheets in the church foyer or reach out to Kiel Reese, Susette Grim or Barbara Henry.
- ❖ **Vacation Bible School:** Mark your calendars for NLPC's Vacation Bible School the week of **July 20-24th**. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Catherine Kloetzli.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Youth and Children's classes: Pre-K through 1st meets in classroom 5, 2nd-4th meets in classroom 4, 5-8th meets in classroom 3, and 9-12th meets in classroom 1.

Two adult classes: one studying *Ezra* and *Nehemiah* and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other studying the theology of idolatry and meeting in Classroom 2.

Women's Bible Study: All women of the church and their friends are welcome to attend a 10-week study, *James: Walking in Wisdom*, by Lydia Brownback, beginning **Tues. March 10**. Group meetings occur in the church Aquarium Room on Tuesdays 9:30–11am, or on Zoom in the evenings from 7– 8:15pm. Please contact Marlene Spark for details.

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.

Music and Sound: Help out with worship on Sundays by joining the music and/or sound team. Contact Jenn Ryan at jenn@newlifeyorkpca.com.

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 **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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