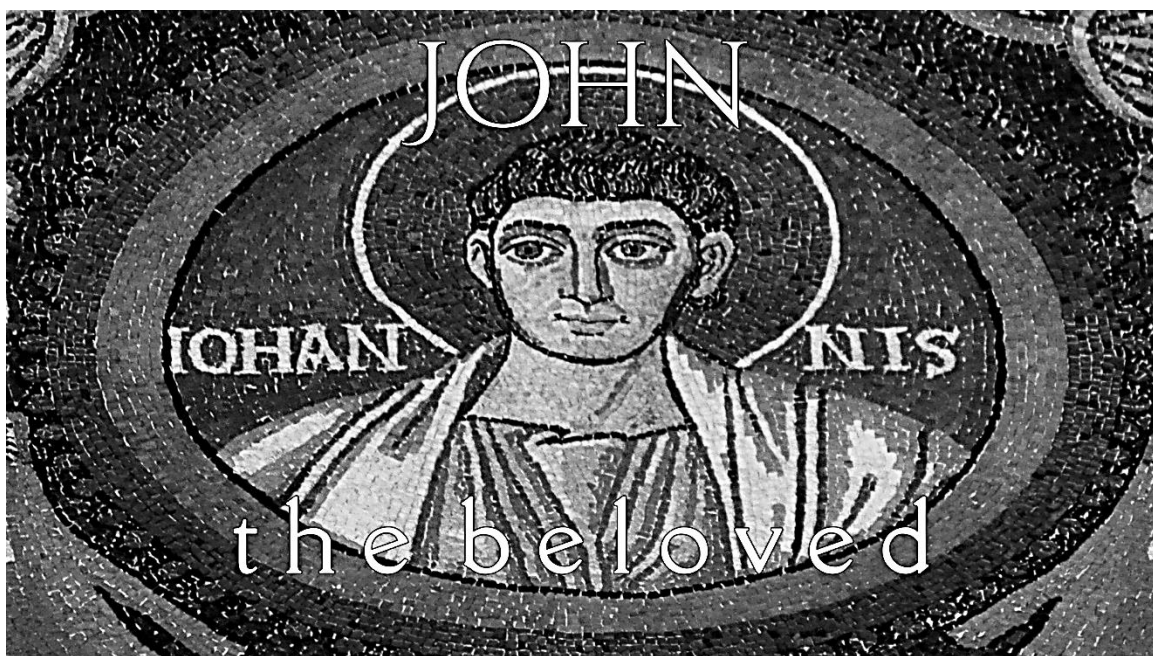


NEW LIFE



THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
FEBRUARY 23, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Thank you for joining us for worship today. We welcome you into our fellowship as together we gather in the presence of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

If you are a visitor, please take a moment to scan the QR code below and fill out the form.

We want to acknowledge your presence today with a note of thanks. Please let us know if there is a way we may be of help or encouragement to you today.

If you have any prayer requests or concerns, questions about your faith or the Christian life, if you have updates to your contact information, or if there is anything you need to communicate, please note those remarks on the form.



On the front cover: St. John the Apostle, the Basilica of St. Apollinaris, Ravenna, Italy

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

For we are not reconciled unto Him except through that love in virtue of which we are also called sons.

-St. Augustine, 5th c.

The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.

-C. S. Lewis

When you sit in front of a fire in winter — you are just there in front of the fire. You don't have to be smart or anything. The fire warms you.

-Desmond Tutu

One who has been touched by grace will no longer look on those who stray as “those evil people” or “those poor people who need our help.” Nor must we search for signs of “loveworthiness.” Grace teaches us that God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are.

-Philip Yancey

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY + **PRE-LENT** + EASTER + PENTECOST + TRINITY

In years when Easter is later, resulting in a longer time from Epiphany to Lent, there may be a few Pre-Lenten Sundays. The Pre-Lenten season begins after the Feast of Presentation and extends through Transfiguration Sunday. Pre-Lent is a time to recognize that the season of Lent is approaching and to begin to make preparations for that penitential season. During Pre-Lent, the Christmas paraments are removed and the color shifts to green, though the Christ candle stays lit. This is except for the first Sunday before Lent, when White returns in memorial of the Transfiguration of Christ.

THE WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD

GREETING

Blessed be God: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us go to his dwelling place;

let us worship at his footstool!

-Ps. 132:7

Let us pray.

COLLECT

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

Fret not yourself because of evildoers;

be not envious of wrongdoers!

For they will soon fade like the grass

and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good;

dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Delight yourself in the Lord,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;

trust in him, and he will act.

- Psalm 37:1-5, 7

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

**Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [*Refrain*]

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [*Refrain*]

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm

Music: William M. Runyan

READING

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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.

- John 1:9-14

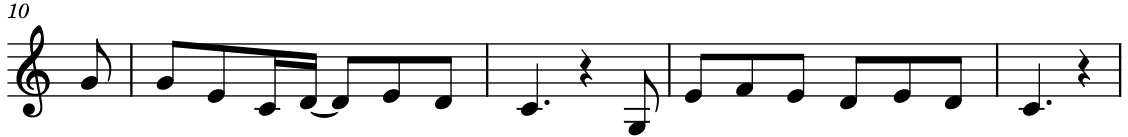
POOR SINNER, DEJECTED WITH FEAR



Poor sin-ner de-ject - ted with fear, Un - bos-om thy mind to the Lamb,



No wrath on His brow He does bear, Nor will He poor mourn-ers con - demn,



His arm of om-ni - po-tent grace, Is ab - le and will-ing to save,



A sweet and a perm-a-nent peace, He'll free-ly and faith - ful-ly give.

2. Come just as thou art, with thy woe,
Fall down at the feet of the Lamb;
He will not, He cannot say, 'Go',
But surely will take out thy stain
A fountain is opened for sin,
And thousands its virtues have proved
He'll take thee, and plunge thee therein,
And wash thee from filth in His blood.

3. The soul that on Jesus relies,
He'll never, no never deceive;
He freely and faithfully gives
More blessings than we can conceive;
Yea, down to old age He will keep,
Nor will He forsake us at last;
He knows and is known by His sheep;
They're His, and He will hold them fast.

Words by William Gadsby, 1844

Music by Katy Bowser & Matthew Perryman Jones, 2001

Arranged by Joel Littlepage

CONFESSING OUR SINS

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,

and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say we have not sinned,

we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

-1 John 1:8-10

Let us then confess our sins unto God, our Maker:

Most merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Continue to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

After the words of absolution are spoken, all say:

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to His people on earth.

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear God, we thank you that you loved us so much that you sent your son Jesus and your Holy Spirit to tell us about who you are. Please help us to know you more and more through the Spirit speaking through your word to us. Help us to want to read the Bible so you can do that. We love you. Amen.

PRAISES AND PETITIONS

Please see page 22 for the prayers this week.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

All children may come forward for a brief lesson and prayer by Pastor Tim. Then children up to fifth grade are dismissed for an age-appropriate lesson.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

While the children are being dismissed, we will have a brief time of welcome and greeting. You are welcome to "pass the peace of Christ" to one another.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are visiting, or have a contact update, please scan the QR code below and fill out the form. Please see announcements on page 23.



THE LORD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 JOHN 3:1-9

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared in order to take

away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 119:1-8; ANTIPHON: 1 JOHN 3:1A

Antiphon: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God

- ¹ Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!
- ² Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
- ³ who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!
- ⁴ You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God

- ⁵ Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.
- ⁸ I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 15:18-27

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for

their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: **“Beloved Children of God”**
Sermon Text: 1 John 3:1-9
Sermon Series: *The Beloved: Exposition of the Letters of John, VI*
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

New Life is supported by the generous gifts of our church members and friends. If you are visiting, you are not expected to give, but if the Lord has blessed you today and you would like to support our ministry, it would be most appreciated. If you don't have cash or check, you can also give on-line at www.newlifeithaca.org/giving/

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

-- 2 Cor. 9:6-7

THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

EUCCHARIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is proper and right to do so.

Truly it is proper, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we do praise You that You did send unto us Your only-begotten Son and that in Him, being found in fashion as a man, You did manifest the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the Church on earth, we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

THE ACCLAMATION

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of Faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor prays a further prayer for the Holy Spirit to bless our communion meal.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven:

Hallowed be Thy Name,

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

For ever and ever.

Amen.

THE INVITATION

New Life Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who trust in Jesus Christ to receive Holy Communion with us.

-If this does not describe you, you are invited to come forward, crossing your arms in front of your chest when you reach the front, to receive a blessing from the pastor.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation will come forward row-by-row, forming two lines in the center aisle. Cup your hands together to receive the bread, then proceed outwardly to the wine tray. There is juice in the very center and wine on the outside. Then use the outside aisle to return to your seat and wait until we eat and drink together.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

We partake together of the most holy body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

After the communion the pastor prays a prayer of blessing.

Prayers for Those Not Communing

New Life Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who trust in Jesus to receive Holy Communion with us. If you are not able to receive Communion, please use the time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I recognize that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

For Those Struggling with Sin

If you are a baptized believer in Christ who is struggling with sin, you should still come forward for communion. As it says in our Larger Catechism 172:

One who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, may have true interest in Christ, though he be not yet assured thereof; and in God's account hath it, if he be duly affected with the apprehension of the want of it, and unfeignedly desires to be found in Christ, and to depart from iniquity: in which case (because promises are made, and this sacrament is appointed, *for the relief even of weak and doubting Christians*) he is to bewail his unbelief, and labour to have his doubts resolved; and, so doing, he may and *ought to come to the Lord's supper, that he may be further strengthened.*

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

1. How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure that
3 He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How
5 great the pain of sear - ing loss, the Fath - er turns His face away, as
7 wounds which mar the Chos - en One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.

2. Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

3. I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Words and Music: Stewart Townend

BENEDICTION

The Pastor pronounces a blessing upon the congregation from Scripture.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: Louis Bourgeois, 16th c..*

DECLARATION OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Go in peace.

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The English Standard Version

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

- **Pray** for the church in **Uzbekistan** whose **government** does not acknowledge **Uzbek-speaking congregations**, forcing them to **stay small and underground**. **Pray** for God to **strengthen the faith** of these believers through their **new Uzbek Bible** and to bring more to the **knowledge of His truth**.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **New Hope Presbyterian Church, Vestal; Alex Howarth, pastor**

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Hillside Alliance Church**

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Whitney and Sage Buckner, A Rocha -- Vancouver, British Columbia**

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Community Faith Partners**, an agency that seeks to **unite Christians to meet the needs of the Ithaca community**, particularly in seeking **racial justice** and pursuing **jail ministry**.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

- **Ithaca Mayor Robert Cantelmo; the Common Council and the Administration Committee; City Manager Deb Mohlenhoff; and local governments in Tompkins County and surrounding villages and townships**

NEW LIFE CHURCH

- **Cindy Kao and Bo-Jhang Ho: Praise** for the **birth** of their baby, **Kira**, on Saturday, February 8.
- **Heewon Park: Praise** for his **engagement** to **Sun-je**. **Pray** for her as **she moves here** in the fall, and that her **transition here** would be smooth.
- **Pray** for all the **victims of abuse** in the worldwide **church**, that they will **receive justice and healing**.
- **Praise** that our church's **financial footing** has **improved**, and that **people would continue to give**.
- **Pray** for New Life Alums Samwise and Temi Parkinson. Prayers for Samwise as he starts a new job tomorrow and for their family as they continue to adjust to a new city and church.

If you do not wish to have praises and requests shared during the worship service printed in the bulletin for the next three weeks, please inform Angela Brodie in an email (angelabrodie@gmail.com).

life@new life

New Life University Meets Today

Our Spring New Life U class resumes this week, immediately following today's service. We will be taking a survey of the entire Bible. Remaining meeting dates are March 9, 16, and 23.

March Taco Potluck – March 2 – NEXT WEEK!

We have another opportunity for food and fellowship after the worship service on March 2nd. This will be a **taco potluck**: The church will provide the taco shells, tortillas, cheese, sour cream, and salsa. Attendees should bring the meats, lettuce, tomatoes, other veggie toppings, and desserts. A signup sheet will be going early this week.

Ash Wednesday Service – March 5, 6:30PM

Join us to mark the Lenten season with prayer and repentance.

Morning Prayer & Pastor Tim's "Office Hours" – Tuesdays

Join us on Tuesdays at 7:45AM for a short time of prayer. We will be using the traditional form for the Daily Office, which has confession of sin, psalms, scripture readings, and intercessory prayer; and our time together should last about 20 minutes. Immediately following Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, Pastor Tim will be available at the church for consultation or conversation. Please feel free to stop by.

contact us

Senior Pastor:

The Reverend Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy
tim@newlifeithaca.org

Elder:

David Williamson – david@newlifeithaca.org

Church Contact:

950 Danby Road
Suite 195
Ithaca, New York 14850

607.277.8398 www.newlifeithaca.org

New Life Presbyterian is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Please let us know you worshiped with us today!

We would like to acknowledge your presence with us today. You will not be added to any mailing lists without your permission and we will not share your information with anyone. Please fill this out and place it in the offering when it comes by.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Prayer Requests: _____

-
- I am an out-of-town visitor.
 - I reside locally and I am visiting New Life Church today.
 - I would like more information about New Life. Please have someone contact me.
 - Please send me more information about: _____
 - I would like to meet the pastor for coffee.

Other comments: _____