



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 5, 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.



WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

A star burned in the sky more brightly than all the others; its light was indescribable, its newness marvelous, and all the other stars, along with the sun and moon, formed a chorus around this star, the light of which reached farther than that of any other. Then all magic was destroyed, and every bond wrought by wickedness was broken, and the ancient kingdom was razed. When God appeared in human form to bring the newness of eternal life, his counsel began to be fulfilled.

-St. Ignatius of Antioch, c. 100 AD

The gifts of God are multiplied, and we in our time experience all that the first believers did. For though the gospel account tells us only of the days when three men, untaught by prophetic preaching or the testimonies of the Law, came from the distant East in order to know God, yet we see the same thing happening now even more clearly and on a far larger scale in the enlightenment of all who are called.

-Pope St. Leo the Great, 5th c.

Today the magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body.

-Peter Chrysologus, 5th c.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

-The Prophet Isaiah, 8th c. BC

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY + LENT + EASTER + PENTECOST + TRINITY

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek word that means "to reveal." Thus, the season of Epiphany is about the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the World. Historically three main events from Jesus' life are commemorated during Epiphany season: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the Transfiguration of Jesus. All three of these events in their own way reveal something about the glory and worship of Christ. We continue to use white and gold as our primary colors during Epiphany to emphasize the shining glory of the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world.

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.

Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?

For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

-Matt. 2:2

Let us pray.

COLLECT

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

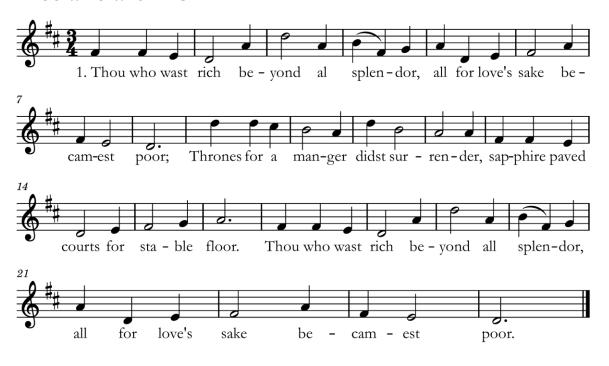
your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

-- Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17

THOU WHO WAST RICH



- 2. Thou who art God beyond all praising All for love's sake becamest man Stooping so low but sinners raising Heavenwards by Thine eternal plan Thou who art God beyond all praising All for love's sake becamest man
- 3. Thou who art love beyond all telling Saviour and King we worship Thee Emmanuel within us dwelling Make us what Thou wouldst have us be Thou who art love beyond all telling Saviour and King we worship Thee

Words: Frank Houghton, 20th c. Music: French Carol Arranger: Charles H Kitson, 1930

ANTIPHON

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

-- Isaiah 60:1, 3

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER



Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1872 Music: Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,

for he will save his people from their sins.

-- Matthew 1:20-21

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

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Continue to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

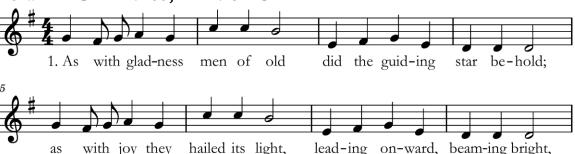
RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to His people of

And peace to His people on earth.

As WITH GLADNESS, MEN OF OLD





- 2. As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed, there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
- 3. As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare; so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

- 4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
- 5. In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down; there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Words: William C. Dix, 1860 Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838 Arranger: William H. Monk, 1861

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear Jesus, as the wise men brought you gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh we bring you gifts richer than those – our bodies, our lives, and our hearts. 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 19



THE LORD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
- but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
- ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
- ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,
- because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.
- They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 72:1-11; ANTIPHON: V. 18

Antiphon: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!
- ² May he judge your people with righteousness,

and your poor with justice!

³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,

and the hills, in righteousness!

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,

give deliverance to the children of the needy,

and crush the oppressor!

⁵ May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,

like showers that water the earth!

- ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- ⁹ May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands

render him tribute;

may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

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.

Antiphon: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

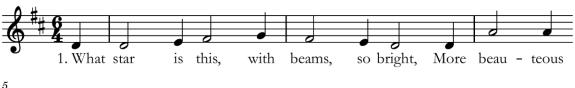
6"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saving, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

WHAT STAR IS THIS







- 2. True spake the prophet from afar who told the rise of Jacob's star; and eastern sages with amaze upon the wondrous token gaze.
- 3. The guiding star above is bright; within them shines a clearer light, and leads them on with power benign to seek the Giver of the sign.
- 4. O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek thy face, let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of thy light to use.
- 5. To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night, to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.

Words: Charles Coffin, 1736 Translator: John Chandler, 1837 Music: Michael Praetorius, 1609 Harmonizer: George R. Woodward, 1904

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: I Saw the Light Sermon Text: Isaiah 60:1-6

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

We will say the Nicene Creed during Christmas and Epiphany

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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

EUCHARIST

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, 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 mediate 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

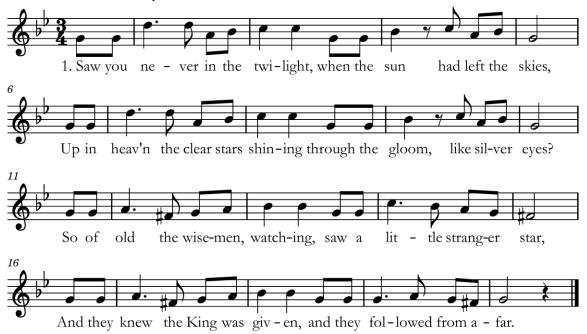
Lord Jesus Christ, I recognize that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised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

SAW YOU NEVER, IN THE TWILIGHT



- 2. Heard you never of the story how they crossed the desert wild, journeyed on by plain and mountain till they found the holy child? How they opened all their treasure, kneeling to that infant King; gave the gold and fragrant incense, gave the myrrh in offering?
- 3. Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning Star? He who came to light the Gentiles and the darkened isles afar? And we, too, may seek his cradle; there our hearts' best treasures bring; love and faith and true devotion for our Savior, God, and King.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1853 Music: 15th c. French Melody Arranger: Charles Wood, 1990

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: Thomas Tallis, 16th c.

BENEDICTION

The Pastor pronounces a blessing upon the congregation from Scripture.

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 Christians in Bosnia, especially those who have been victims of the recent floods and for the local church as they reach out to these victims.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

O New Life Presbyterian Church, Canton; Larry Veinott, pastor

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

o Bethel Grove Bible Church; Matthew Raley, lead pastor

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

o Bruce Cain, Wycliffe Bible Translators in Southeast Asia

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

o 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

- O Abigail Williamson: Pray for her return to her work in Glasgow.
- o Jason Burnham: Pray for Jason as he recovers from surgery, and for Hannah and Reagan as they care for him and for their farm. Praise that the surgery was successful.
- Angela Brodie: Pray for her translation team as they work on wrapping up their Psalms translation.
- \circ Liz Thomforde: Pray for safety for JT as he travels to S. Africa.
- o **Brad Helmetsie**: **Praise** that he has **transferred over** to his **new job**, and that the **transition** was so **easy**.
- Praise that our church's financial footing has improved, and that people would continue to give.

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

Baby Shower for Cindy Kao and Bo-Jang Ho on January 11

Please block off January 11, from 10am-12pm, on your calendar for a baby shower for Cindy and Bo! Ladies AND gentlemen are invited to join. Please refer to the emails you received this week to sign up to bring food, and to find the gift registry; or talk to Rachel LeCroy or Ann Williamson for more info.

Save the Date - Youth Group

Our next meeting of the youth group will happen on January 15th at 6:30pm. More info to follow.

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

Other comments: _

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 Nam	e:Last Name:
Address:	
Email Add	lress: Mobile Number:
Prayer Requests:	
☐ I a	m an out-of-town visitor.
I r	eside locally and I am visiting New Life Church today.
I v	yould like more information about New Life. Please have someone contact me.
Ple	ease send me more information about:
Iv	vould like to meet the pastor for coffee.