

NEW LIFE



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 2024

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: Ruth by Ruby Mae LeCroy, 2024

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

The Advent mystery is the beginning of the end in all of us that is not yet Christ.

-Thomas Merton, 20th c.

Advent is designed to show that the meaning of Christmas is diminished to the vanishing point if we are not willing to take a fearless inventory of the darkness.

-Fleming Rutledge, Advent

A church should not simply have a missions department. It should wholly exist to be a mission.

-Timothy Keller

“What was God's answer to saving the world and righting all wrongs? God became small and dirty.”

-Leonard Sweet & Frank Viola, Jesus, A Theography

Lift your eyes, Jerusalem, and see the power of your ruler.

Look to a Savior who shall break your bonds.

See! The Lord shall appear, shall not deceive us.

If the Lord tarries, keep watching.

The Lord shall come quickly. Alleluia.

-From a Monastic liturgy

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY + LENT + EASTER + PENTECOST

Advent is a time to cry out to God to come and visit us, to come and fix our broken world. It is a preparatory period, similar to Lent, where we connect our souls to the broken and the hurting, crying out for God's deliverance. Because of this, most of our Advent hymns are prayers asking God to come to us, and so this word, “come” is present in many of them. Advent themes include the final judgment, the second coming of Christ, John the Baptist preparing the way, and the Messianic hope of Israel.

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.

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

For he comes, for he comes to judge the earth!

Let us pray.

COLLECT

Stir up our hearts, we beseech you, O Lord, to prepare the way of your only begotten; that through his Advent we might be worthy to serve you with purified minds. Almighty God, may your grace always go before us and behind us; that with the Advent of your Only-Begotten, which we long for with all our hearts, we might obtain your help both in this present life and in the one to come. Purify our consciences by your daily visitation that at the coming of your son, Our Lord, he might find a mansion prepared for him in our midst. Make us always watchful and anxious to expect the Advent of the Lord Christ, your Son, that when he comes knocking, he will not find us sleeping in our sins, but awake and exultant in his praise. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes.”

The Lord will cause his majestic voice to be heard,

and you shall have gladness of heart.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Turn again, O God of hosts!

Look down from heaven, and see.

But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,

the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

- from Isaiah 62 and Psalm 80

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Thy peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
6
O Christ Thou Sav - ior of us all, we pray Thee hear us when we call.

2. Thou, grieving that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
Hast found the med'cine, full of grace,
To save and heal a ruined race.

3. Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide;
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The spotless victim all divine.

4. At whose dread name, majestic now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
And things celestial Thee shall own,
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.

5. O Thou whose coming is with dread
To judge and doom the quick and dead,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every insult of the foe.

6. To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.

*Words: 9th c. Latin Hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale
Music: Saurum Plainsong Mode IV*

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

- *Psalm 24:3-4*

God of grace, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God. Ho - ly and migh - ty. Ho - ly im - mor-tal One, Have mer - cy! Have mer - cy! mer - cy! mer - cy on us!". The score includes first, second, and third endings. The first ending leads to the second ending, and the second ending leads to the third ending. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Continue your confession of sins in silent prayer

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to His people on earth.

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING



1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung; of



Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing, as saints of old have sung. It came, a flower-et



bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter when half spent was the night.

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

4. O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, you are peace even when there is hatred.
Help us to forgive like you when we are hurt or wounded.
Bring peace into our hearts we pray.
Amen.

PRAISES AND PETITIONS

Please see page 18 for additional prayers this week.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

All children may come forward for a brief lesson and prayer by Pastor Tim.

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 READING: RUTH 1:1-17

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of

her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.” ¹⁴Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 50:1-15, ANTIPHON: V. 15

**Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify
me.**

- ¹ The Mighty One, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

**Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify
me.**

- ³ Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty tempest.
⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
⁵ “Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”
⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge!

**Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify
me.**

⁷ “Hear, O my people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.

- ⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.
¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.
¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

**Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify
me.**

- ¹² “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.
¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?
¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,
¹⁵ **and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify
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.

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-2, 5-12, 16-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of

Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. ¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: "The Stowaway"
Scripture Texts: Matthew 1:5; Ruth 1-4
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Tim 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

OFFERTORY

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape the wrath to come.

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 singing:

HO - LY! HO - LY! HO - LY! LORD, GOD OF HOSTS.

5
Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo-ry! Ho - san-na in the high - est!

11
Bles-sed is He who comes in the NAME of the LORD.

15
Ho - san - na in the high - est!

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 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.*

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

1. Come, thou long ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free. From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in Thee. Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art, dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff starts at measure 10, the third at measure 19, and the fourth at measure 28. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

2. Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

*Words and Music:
Charles Wesley, Rowland Hugh Prichard*

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: Thomas Tallis, 16th century*

DECLARATION OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Go in peace.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

- **Pray for the church in Puerto Rico**, where **45% of the population** lives in **poverty**, and **infrastructure** is still being **rebuilt** after **Hurricanes Irma and Maria**. **Pray for the gospel to change lives and communities** through God's grace on the island.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Garnet Zoellner**, pastor of **L'Église Réformée St-Jean, Montreal, Quebec**, a work which has **launched other multi-lingual congregations** (French, English, Mandarin) and which has helped establish **Farel Institut de théologie réformée (Farel Theological Seminary)** where **Garnet serves on the faculty**.

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Tabernacle Baptist Church; Elijah Beltz**, pastor

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Will and Julia Dickerson, OMS in Budapest, Hungary**

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Second Wind Cottages** (care for and discipleship of homeless men) in Ithaca: **Carmen Guidi, Sarah Widercrantz, Deb Wilke, Jeff Furst, Lucas Raley**, board members

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

- New York State Governor, **Kathy Hochul**; Lieutenant Governor, **Antonio Delgado**; the members of the **Legislature** and the **Judiciary**

MEDICAL

- **Benjamin Sray**: **Pray for his mom** as she **cares for his grandfather and his nephew**. **Pray that God would sustain her and provide her with the energy** she needs.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

- **Praise** that our church's **financial footing** has **improved**, and that **people would continue to give**.
- **Prayers for Ellen Mosher's sister Janet and her husband Rick** as she faces terminal cancer.

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

End of Semester Reception – TODAY after the service

Each semester we have a reception after service on the Sunday before everyone heads home. Please plan to join us as we celebrate and give thanks!

Youth Group Christmas Party – This Wednesday at 6:30. Bring a White Elephant gift.

Session Meeting, Thursday, 7PM – Pray for the elders as they have their monthly meeting.

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: _____

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- 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: _____