

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 16, 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

Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. If we have not all three together, we have nothing.

-Peter Chrysologus, 5th c.

When the stomach is full, it is easy to talk of fasting.

-St. Jerome, 4th c.

For it was not only an immeasurable love, that God spared not his own Son, that by his death he might restore us to life; but it was a goodness most marvelous, which ought to fill our minds with the greatest wonder and amazement. Christ then, is so illustrious and singular a proof of divine love towards us that whenever we look upon him, he fully confirms to us the truth that God is love.

-John Calvin, 16th c.

Whoever lacks love is blind to God.

-Adolf Schlatter, 20th c.

God dwells, or "abides," in the midst of his people as they respond to each other with the love that he has extended to them.

-Robert Yarbrough

Love, and sin is undone.

-St. Augustine, 5th c.

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

Lent is a 40 day season of confession and repentance in preparation for Easter. Christians have been keeping the season of Lent since the 2nd century. During this season Christians typically fast on certain days and abstain from certain things in order shape our hearts and souls towards repentance. The 40 day fast of Lent symbolizes several events in salvation history: Jesus' 40 fast in the wilderness, Israel's 40 year wandering in the desert, the 40 days of rain cleansing the earth during the flood of Noah, among others. The liturgical colors for Lent are purple and black, symbolizing mourning and repentance.

THE WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

COLLECT

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

For zeal for your house has consumed me,

and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

O God, why do you cast us off forever?

Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!

Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.

Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;

the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!

- Psalm 69:9, 74:1-3

LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS





- 2. As you with Satan did contend and did the vict'ry win,O, give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.
- 3. As you did hunger and did thirst, so teach us gracious Lord, to die to self and so to live by Your most holy Word.

- 4. And through these days of Penitence, and through your Passiontide, for evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
- 5. Abide with us that through this life of suff'ring and of pain, an Easter of unending joy, we may at last attain.

THE DECALOGUE

And God spoke all these words, saying,

- ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- ³ "You shall have no other gods before me.
- ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
- ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- 13 "You shall not murder.
- ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.
- 15 "You shall not steal.
- ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

-- Exodus 20:1-17

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Rend your hearts and not your garments.

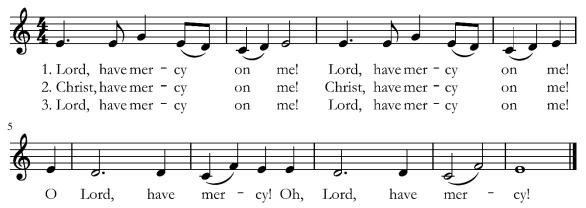
Return to the LORD your God,

for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

-- Joel 2:13

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

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.



Continue to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to His people on earth.

GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

1. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

Chorus:

Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse
within
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

2. Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, Threaten the soul with infinite loss; Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, Points to the refuge, the mighty cross. **Chorus**

- 3. Dark is the stain that we cannot hide. What can avail to wash it away? Look! There is flowing a crimson tide, Whiter than snow you may be today. **Chorus**
- 4. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, Freely bestowed on all who believe! You that are longing to see His face, Will you this moment His grace receive? Chorus Repeat Chorus

Words and Music: Daniel Towner

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear Jesus, you didn't eat or drink for 40 days. Satan tried to trick you into sinning three different times, but you weren't fooled. We thank you that you are strong for us! Help us to say "No" to what we want and to be strong when Satan tries to trick us. We thank you that even when we can't do this, you love us and forgive us. 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 4:1-14

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 86:1-10; ANTIPHON: 1 JOHN 4:8

Antiphon: Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
- ² Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.
- ³ Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
- ⁵ For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
- ⁶ Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.
- ⁷ In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- ⁸ There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.
- ⁹ All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.
- ¹⁰ For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

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.

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 8:48-59

The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' 55 But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." 57 So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: "God Is Love"
Sermon Text: 1 John 4:1-14

Sermon Series: The Beloved: Exposition of the Letters of John, IX

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

Sermon Outline:

I. The Theological Test

II. The Ethical Test

III. The Trinitarian Test

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

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 singing:



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.

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 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.

ACCORDING TO THY GRACIOUS WORD

- 1. According to thy gracious word, in meek humility, this will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember thee.
- 2. Thy body, broken for my sake, my bread from heav'n shall be; thy testamental cup I take, and thus remember thee.
- 3. Gethsemane can I forget? Or there thy conflict see, thine agony and bloody sweat, and not remember thee?
- 4. When to the cross I turn mine eyes, and rest on Calvary,O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,I must remember thee.
- 5. Remember thee, and all thy pains, and all thy love to me: when thou shalt in thy kingdom come, Jesus, remember me.

Words: James Montgomery, 1825 Music: Hugh Wilson, 1824

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 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 Armenia, the world's first Christian nation, where the church has been ministering for over 1,700 years. Pray for their witness and outreach to neighboring Middle Eastern nations, that God would use them mightily for His kingdom and protect this church as she serves the many needs there.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

O 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

o Trinity Lutheran Church; Rob Foote, pastor

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

o Karl Johnson, Consortium of Christian Study Centers, executive director

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

 President Donald Trump and Vice-President J.D. Vance; the members of Congress and the Judiciary

NEW LIFE CHURCH

- Ann Williamson: Praise that her sister Karen's knee surgery was a success, and that she is quickly recovering.
- o Lucy LeCroy: Pray for her therapist Sophie, who is pregnant with her first child.
- o **Pray** for **Allison Huang**, director of the **Christian Legal Society** at Cornell, who is currently **pregnant.**
- Cindy Kao and Bo-Jhang Ho: Praise for the birth of their baby, Kira, on Saturday, February 8.
- Pray for all New Life alums working for the federal government, that they would retain
 their jobs and funding during this time. Pray also for those working at Cornell who may be
 affected by the related hiring freezes and budget cuts.
- 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.

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. Our last class for this series will be next Sunday, March 23.

Ladies' Bible Study - This Saturday, March 22

Our next session will be Saturday, March 22, at 2:30pm, at Ann Williamson's home: 135 Lexington Drive. Please join us for fellowship, prayer, and a study of the book of Acts.

Our next Bible study sessions will be:

- Wednesday, April 9 at 11:30am, at Liz Thomforde's (159 Pleasant Grove Rd.), and
- Saturday, April 26 at 2:30pm, at Ann Williamson's again.

Next Potluck Lunch - March 30

Plan on staying after the service on Sunday, March 30, to enjoy a potluck meal together! The theme of this potluck is Dips and Appetizers.

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 N	Vame: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.