

# NEW LIFE



**RORATE SUNDAY**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 22, 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: Mary by Ruby Mae LeCroy, 2024*

## WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

Rorate is Latin for “to shower” the first words of the call to worship today.

Wide awake now!  
The Lord God is so near!

*-from a monastic liturgy*

Good news; but if you ask me what it is, I know not; it is a track of feet in the snow, it is a lantern showing a path, it is a door set open.

*-G. K. Chesterton*

The Beginning shall remind us of the End; And the First Coming of the Second Coming.

*-T. S. Eliot*

The Word of God was made human in order that we might be made divine. The Word displayed itself through a body, that we might receive knowledge of the invisible Father.

*-St. Athanasius, 4th c.*

The Glory of God is a living person and the life of each living person is the vision of God.

*-St. Irenaeus of Lyon, 2<sup>nd</sup> c.*

The knot of Eve's disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. For what the virgin Eve had bound fast through unbelief, this did the virgin Mary set free through faith.

*-St. Irenaeus of Lyon, 2<sup>nd</sup> c.*

## 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 your power and come, we beseech you, O Lord; that those who trust in your goodness may be speedily delivered from all adversity. Grant, Almighty God, that the coming celebration of our redemption may give us support in this present life, and the happiness of the rewards of eternal life to be bestowed upon us. Cause all the upright in heart, who are gathered together in the unity of faith, to rejoice; that when our Saviour, your Son, comes, we may meet him in the company of his saints. Make us, O Lord, to reject evil things with all our hearts; so that when your Son, our Lord, comes, we may be strong to take hold his good things. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

**let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.**

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**In them he has set a tent for the sun,**

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

**and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

**and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

**let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.**

- *Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*

# O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. [*Refrain*]

6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
[*Refrain*]

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. [*Refrain*]

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. [*Refrain*]

*Words: Latin hymn, 18th c.  
Music: Plainsong, 13th c.  
Arranged: Thomas Helmore, 19th c.*

## 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 melody is simple and hymn-like. 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 piece concludes with a double bar line.

Ho - ly God. Ho - ly and migh - ty.

5 Ho - ly im - mor-tal One, Have mer - cy! Have mer - cy!

9 2. mer - cy! 3. mer - cy on us!

*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.**

## THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

1. The An - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, With wings as  
5 drift-ed snow, with eyes as flame; "All hail to thee, O low - ly maid-en Ma-  
9 - ry, Most high-ly fa-vored La - dy." Glo - - ri-al

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line contains measures 1-4, the second line contains measures 5-8, and the third line contains measures 9-12. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the third line.

2. "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady."  
Gloria!

*Words and Music: 18th c. Basque Carol*  
*Paraphraser: Sabine Baring-Gould*  
*Musical Arranger: C. Edgar Pettman*

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Jesus, you are with us even when we are afraid.  
Help us to pray to you when we are scared or fearful.  
Bring love into our hearts we pray.  
Amen.

## **PRAISES AND PETITIONS**

*Please see page 18 for the 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: MICAH 5:2-5A

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of  
Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the  
strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be  
great  
to the ends of the earth.  
<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!**

THE PSALM: PSALM 80:1-7, ANTIPHON: V. 3

**Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be  
saved!**

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock.  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth.

<sup>2</sup> Before Ephraim and Benjamin and  
Manasseh,  
stir up your might  
and come to save us!

<sup>3</sup> **Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be  
saved!**

<sup>4</sup> O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your  
people's prayers?

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears  
and given them tears to drink in full  
measure.

<sup>6</sup> You make us an object of contention for our  
neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

<sup>7</sup> **Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be  
saved!**

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: LUKE 1:26-47

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month

with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Glory to you, O Lord!**

## HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: "The Unwed Teen Mother"

Scripture Texts: Luke 1:26-47

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/](http://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.*

## SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME



1. Sav-ior of the na - tions come, Vir-gin's Son, make here Your home!

5



Mar-vel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh --  
Woman's offspring pure and fresh.

3. Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.

4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.

5. God the Father was his source  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6. For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7. From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

8. Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our King,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now an through eternity.

*Words: Ambrose of Milan, 4th c. Martin Luther, William Reynolds, trans.  
Music: Martin Luther, 16th c.*

## **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, 16<sup>th</sup> 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 persecuted church in Yemen**, the Old Testament land of **Sheba**, now known as **a country torn apart by three recent civil wars**. **Pray for peace and restoration, freedom** from larger countries' interference, and that **people** here will again **seek the Lord** as promised in Isaiah 60:6.

### PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Christ Central Church**, Buffalo; **Chris Jhu**, pastor

### SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Vineyard Church**; **Nathan Emmelhainz**, Lead Elder

### NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Gary Villa**, "interim teacher" at **Refuge Church, Albuquerque, NM**

### OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Chesterton House**: Center for Christian Studies at Cornell. Director: **Vivek Mathew**.

### 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

- **Ruth Williamson**: **Pray** for healing for her **injured knee**.
- **Ann Williamson**: **Praise** that her friend **Gudrun** is getting **much-improved care** at her **new facility**.
- **Ellen Mosher**: **Pray** for Ellen and her family as they **mourn the loss** of her **sister Janet**. **Praise** that **Janet's pain** is over, and that she is **with the Lord**. **Praise** that **Art and Ellen** were able to **travel back there** for the **funeral**.
- **Brad Helmetsie**: **Praise** that their **friends** have finalized **the adoption of their son**. **Pray** that the father-in-law of Brad's sister-in-law **Richard** would recover from his **recent stroke** that left him **paralyzed** on his **left side**.
- **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](mailto:angelabrodie@gmail.com)).*

# *life @ new life*

## **Christmas Eve Service and Reception TUESDAY**

We will gather here at 5:30PM this Tuesday for our first Christmas liturgy and Eucharist. Afterwards we will stay for a short reception, the first Christmas party of the season! Please bring a snack or appetizer to share.

## **Save the Date – 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. More info to follow!

## **Christmas Offering**

We are taking up a Christmas offering, through Epiphany, to benefit those in need in our community. More details to come.

## **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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_