

NEW LIFE



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 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: Rahab 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.

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

The coming of Jesus into the world is the most stupendous event in human history.

-Malcolm Muggeridge, Jesus – The Man Who Lives

God is an intruder. He encroaches, presumes, invades, and infringes. He crashes the party.

Tears aside curtains. Throws open locked doors. Hits the light switch in a dark room. God pulls the fire alarm in stuffy, sacrosanct hallways... God is a glorious intruder in my life, my thoughts, my pain, sorrow, and brokenness.

-Joni Erickson Tada, Glorious Intruder

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

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.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

The maker of heaven and earth.

Let us pray.

COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

- Psalm 85:1-6

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

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

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*

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.

Musical score for the hymn "Confessing Our Sins". The score is written in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff begins with a measure rest labeled '5' and contains the third line of the hymn, ending with a first ending bracket labeled '1.'. The third staff begins with a measure rest labeled '9' and contains the fourth line of the hymn, with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and a third ending bracket labeled '3.'.

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

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

9 mer - cy! 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.

WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING



1. "Wake a wake for night is fly ing," the watch-men on the heights are cry -



ing, "a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem at last!" Mid - night hears the wel - come voi - ces, and



at the thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, ye vir - gins, night is past! The



bride - groom comes. A - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take, al - le - lu - ia! And



for his mar - riage feast pre - pare, for you must go to meet him there."

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom:
for her Lord comes down all-glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious;
her Star is ris'n, her Light is come!
Ah, come, thou blessed Lord,
O Jesus, Son of God, alleluia!
We follow till the halls we see
where thou hast bid us sup with thee.

3. Now let all the heav'ns adore thee,
and men and angels sing before thee,
with harps and cymbal's clearest tone;
of one pearl each shining portal,
where we are with the choir immortal
of angels round thy dazzling throne;
nor eye hath seen, nor ear
hath yet attained to hear what there is ours;
but we rejoice, and sing to thee
our hymn of joy eternally.

*Words and Music: Philipp Nicolai, 16th c.
Arranged: Johann Sebastian Bach, 18th c*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places.
Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely.
Shine hope 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: JOSHUA 2:1-24

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

² The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” ³ So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from.” ⁵ At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” ⁶ (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) ⁷ So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

⁸ Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof⁹ and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. ¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

¹² “Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that

you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

¹⁴ “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.”

¹⁵ So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. ¹⁶ She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

¹⁷ Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us ¹⁸ unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. ¹⁹ If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. ²⁰ But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

²¹ “Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.” So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

²² When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. ²³ Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. ²⁴ They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 24, ANTIPHON: V. 7

**Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

¹ The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

² for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

**Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

³ Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?

⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure
heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

**Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

⁵ They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Savior.

⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek
him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

**⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

⁸ Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.

**⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty—
he is the King of glory.

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 1:1-6A

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

²Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: “What Is She Doing Here?”

Scripture Texts: Matthew 1:5; Joshua 2:1-24

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.*

THE ADVENT OF OUR KING



1. The Ad-vent of our King, Our prayers must now em - ploy, And



we must hymns of wel-come sing, In strains of Ho - ly joy!

2. The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.

5. Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

3. O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

6. All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

4. As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.

Aaron Williams, Charles Coffin, John Chandler

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 unity** for the **church in Sri Lanka**, a **multi-ethnic, multi-religious** country once known for its **tolerance and diversity**. **Pray** that our merciful **God will restore the 250 churches** that have been **destroyed or damaged** in recent years **by extremist groups**, and Christians will **share the good news** with their **neighbors**.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Presbyterian Church of Wellsville; Tom Kristofferson**, pastor

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Hillside Alliance Church**, without pastor

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Bob and Jenny Dalberth** (counseling support for New York City area churches)

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Ithaca Pregnancy Center**: Lynn Merchant, director.

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**

MEDICAL

- **Bo and Cindy Kao**: **Praise** for Cindy's **pregnancy**, and **pray** that she and the baby will **remain healthy** until her due date in February.
- **Scott Brodie**: **Pray** for his mom **Kristin**, who has begun **chemotherapy treatments** for her cancer.
- **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

- **John and Adrienne Hein Nystrom**: **Praise** for the birth of their **new son, Stellan**
- **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 – NEXT SUNDAY, December 8

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! A sign-up sheet for snacks was emailed on Friday, but please see Rachel LeCroy if you have any questions.

Christmas Party – Friday, December 13, 6:00-9:00 PM

Mark your calendars and line up your babysitters for this fun evening to celebrate the season. Please be sure to **scan below to buy your tickets before December 6.** This event is for adults only, and it will include hors d'oeuvres, a catered Italian dinner with wine and dessert, and a photobooth! Tickets are \$15 for students, and \$30 for non-student adults.



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

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The Reverend Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy
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Elder:

David Williamson – david@newlifeithaca.org

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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: _____