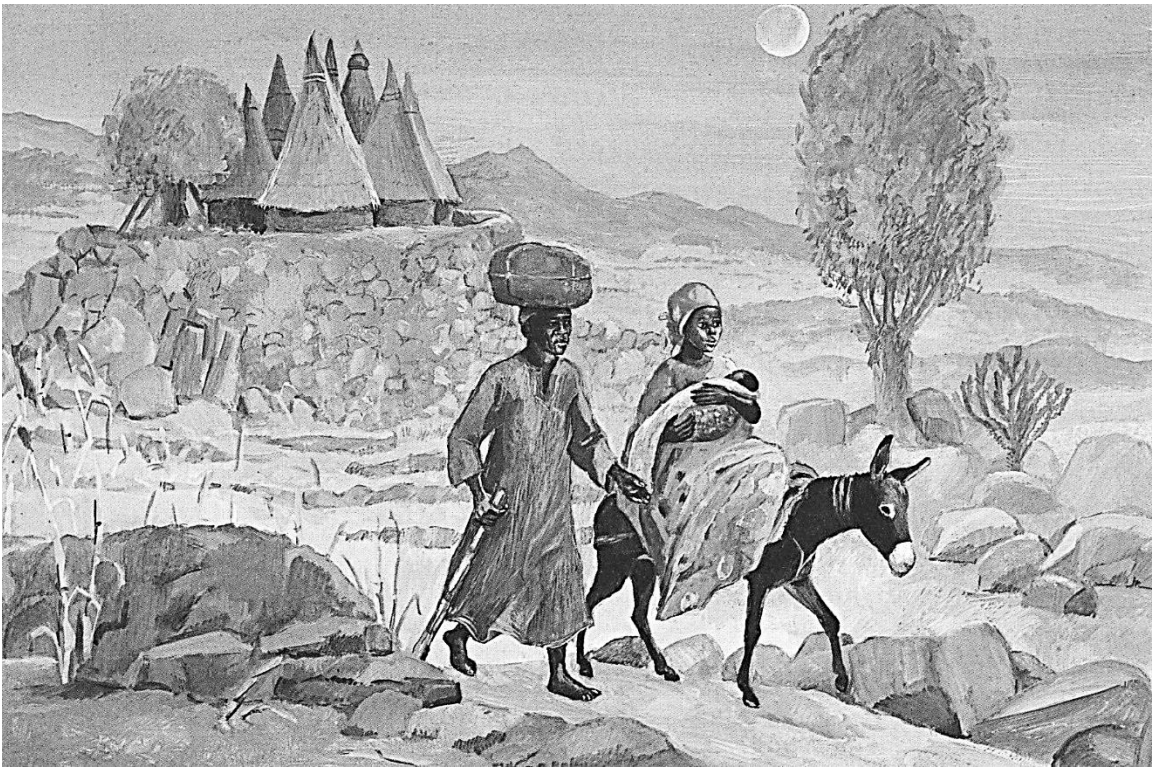


NEW LIFE



HOLY INNOCENTS
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 29, 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.



WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

-the Prophet Jeremiah, 6th c. B.C.

Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we are that he might make us to be what he is.

-Irenaeus of Lyon, 2nd c.

Christ made love the stairway that would enable all Christians to climb to heaven. Hold fast to it, therefore, in all sincerity, give one another practical proof of it, and by your progress in it, make your ascent together.

-Fulgentius of Ruspe, 6th c.

Child of Bethlehem – house of bread;
Man of Jerusalem – city of peace;
You have loved us without limit or condition;
In our greatness and in our misery,
In our folly and in our virtue;
May your hand be always upon us
And may your heart be within us
So that we too
May become bread and peace
For one another.

-John Hammond

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

Christmastide is the twelve-day celebration of the birth of our Lord. This season begins with Christmas Eve and lasts through Epiphany on January 6. From Epiphany until pre-Lent we are still in the “time of Christmas.” So, we see that Christmas is not just one day, but an entire season to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Just as we spend Advent preparing, longing, and praying for Christ to come, now is the season to celebrate his birth, not because we are pretending that everything in our lives is OK, but because the one who will set all things to rights is here. Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to thee! The colors for Christmas are white and gold.

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

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me.

For you are my rock and my fortress;

and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

-- Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. And through all his wondrous
childhood
he would honor and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

5. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander (1848)

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett (1849)

ANTIPHON

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.**

-- Isaiah 9:6

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN



1. Of the Fath-er's love be - got - en ere the worlds be-gan to be,

3




He is Al-pha and O - me - ga, He the Source the End - ing He,

5



of the things that are that have been, and that fut-ure years shall see,

7



ev - er more and ev - er more!

2. O that birth forever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

3. This is he whom heav'n-taught
singers
sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

4. O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
all dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

5. Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

*Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 4th c.
Music: 12th c. Plainsong Chant*

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife,
for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.

-- Matthew 1:20-21

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

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

Continue to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to His people on earth.

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *[Refrain]*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *[Refrain]*

3. Down in a lowly manger
our humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *[Refrain]*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear Jesus, when you were a little baby, your family had to run away from home to protect your life. Help us always to love, pray for, and support those little children who are suffering violence because they are your children. We love you. Amen.

PRAISES AND PETITIONS

Please see page 18 for the prayers this week.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

All children may come forward for a brief lesson and prayer by Pastor Tim. Then children up to fifth grade are dismissed for an age-appropriate lesson.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

While the children are being dismissed, we will have a brief time of welcome and greeting. You are welcome to "pass the peace of Christ" to one another.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are visiting, or have a contact update, please scan the QR code below and fill out the form. Please see announcements on page 19



THE LORD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: JEREMIAH 31:15-17

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her
children,
because they are no more.”

¹⁷ There is hope for your future,
declares the Lord,

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the Lord,
and they shall come back from the land of
the enemy.
and your children shall come back to their
own country.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 54; ANTIPHON: V. 4

**Antiphon: Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

¹ O God, save me, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.

² O God, hear my prayer;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³ For strangers have risen against me;
ruthless men seek my life;
they do not set God before themselves.

⁴ **Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

⁵ He will return the evil to my enemies;
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

⁶ With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

⁷ For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

**Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

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.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 2:13–18

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and

he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because
they are no more.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title:	The Serpent Strikes Back
Sermon Text:	Matthew 2:13-18
Preacher:	Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE ATHANASIAN CREED

People: But it is necessary for eternal salvation that one also believe in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully. Now this is the true faith: That we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and human, equally. He is God from the essence of the Father, begotten before time; and he is human from the essence of his mother, born in time; completely God, completely human, with a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as regards divinity, less than the Father as regards humanity. Although he is God and human, yet Christ is not two, but one. He is one, however, not by his divinity being turned into flesh, but by God's taking humanity to himself. He is one, certainly not by the blending of his essence, but by the unity of his person. For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh, so too the one Christ is both God and human. He suffered for our salvation; he descended to hell; he arose from the dead; he ascended to heaven; he is seated at the Father's right hand; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. At his coming all people will arise bodily and give an accounting of their own deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, and those who have done evil will enter eternal fire. This is the catholic faith: one cannot be saved without believing it firmly and faithfully.

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. For in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the Church on earth, we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

THE ACCLAMATION

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of Faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor prays a further prayer for the Holy Spirit to bless our communion meal.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven:
Hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE INVITATION

New Life Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who trust in Jesus Christ to receive Holy Communion with us.

-If this does not describe you, you are invited to come forward, crossing your arms in front of your chest when you reach the front, to receive a blessing from the pastor.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation will come forward row-by-row, forming two lines in the center aisle. Cup your hands together to receive the bread, then proceed outwardly to the wine tray. There is juice in the very center and wine on the outside. Then use the outside aisle to return to your seat and wait until we eat and drink together.

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 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.

UNTO US IS BORN A SON



1. Un-to us is born a Son, the King o'er all the an - gels; In our world the



6 Lord of lords was ly-ing in a man - ger, was ly-ing in a man - ger.

2. Cradled in a feeding trough
On asses' hay was slumb'ring
He whom asses knew was Lord
The Christ o'er heavens ruling

3. This made Herod sore afraid,
And grievously bewildered,
And so wrathful in his spite,
He slew the little childer.

4. He was born of Ma-ry
On that great day, all holy;
That he lead us by his grace
To ever bless-ed glory!

5. "Alpha and Ome-ga!"
We in the choir are singing!
With chant and instrument the song,
"We bless the Lord!" is ringing!

Words and Music: Pia cantiones, 15th c. Latin carol

Trans. by: Timothy R. LeCroy, 20th c.

Verse 3 based on translation by G. R. Woodward

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: Thomas Tallis, 16th c.*

BENEDICTION

The Pastor pronounces a blessing upon the congregation from Scripture.

DECLARATION OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Go in peace.

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The English Standard Version

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

- **Pray for Christians** who are living as **displaced people, refugees, and asylum-seekers** around the globe today, **feeling discouraged and far from home**. **Pray** that the **Spirit of Comfort** will be **near to them** this Christmas season and **remembering Jesus' family fleeing** His homeland, that they are **not forgotten**.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **New City Fellowship, Beechwood** (Rochester); **Chris Holdridge**, pastor

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **West Hill Community Church; Justin Pepicelli**, pastor

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Whitney and Sage Buckner, A Rocha -- Vancouver, British Columbia**

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Hannah Eagleson, InterVarsity** Graduate Student and Faculty Ministry, Cornell University

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

- **President Joe Biden** and **Vice-President Kamala Harris**; the members of **Congress** and the **Judiciary**

NEW LIFE CHURCH

- **Pray** for safety for all of our **church family** as they **travel** for the holidays.
- **Angela Brodie: Pray** for her **translation team** as they work on wrapping up their **Psalm translation**.
- **Liz Thomforde: Pray** for safety for **JT** as he **travels to S. Africa**.
- **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).

life @ new life

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.

Save the Date – Youth Group

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

Morning Prayer & Pastor Tim’s “Office Hours” – Tuesdays

Join us on Tuesdays at 7:45AM for a short time of prayer. We will be using the traditional form for the Daily Office, which has confession of sin, psalms, scripture readings, and intercessory prayer; and our time together should last about 20 minutes. Immediately following Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, Pastor Tim will be available at the church for consultation or conversation. Please feel free to stop by.

contact us

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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: _____

-
- 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: _____