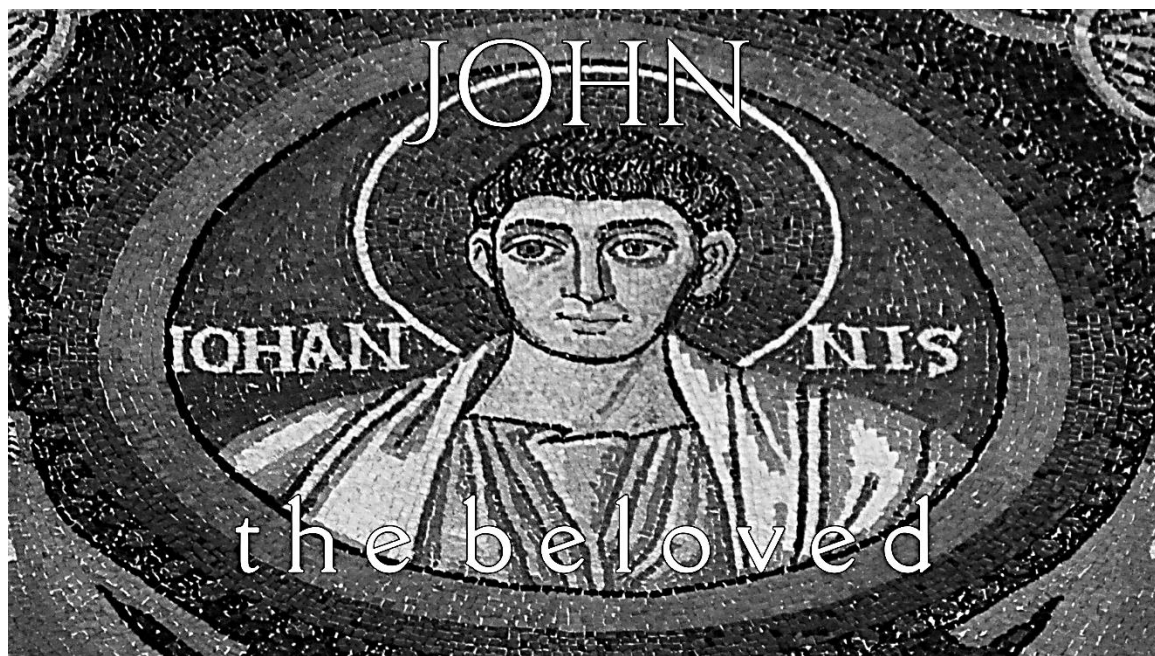


NEW LIFE



THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 26, 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.



On the front cover: St. John the Apostle, the Basilica of St. Apollinaris, Ravenna, Italy

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

The incarnation creates a reality against which all other claims to truth are to be measured.

-Karen Jobes

Because he is called light, shall he be supposed to have any resemblance to the light of the sun?

-Origen, 3rd c.

John's frame of reference in the epistle is dominated by his vision of God –God's light, his moral excellence, and efficacious purity.

-Robert Yarbrough

Draw whatever darkness you please over your deeds. God is light.

-Tertullian, 3rd c.

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek word that means "to reveal." Thus, the season of Epiphany is about the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the World. Historically three main events from Jesus' life are commemorated during Epiphany season: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the Transfiguration of Jesus. All three of these events in their own way reveal something about the glory and worship of Christ. We continue to use white and gold as our primary colors during Epiphany to emphasize the shining glory of the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world.

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.

Let us go to his dwelling place;

let us worship at his footstool!

-Ps. 132:7

Let us pray.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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

You will arise and have pity on Zion;

it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come.

Let this be recorded for a generation to come,

so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord:

that he looked down from his holy height;

from heaven the Lord looked at the earth,

to hear the groans of the prisoners,

to set free those who were doomed to die,

that they may declare in Zion the name of the Lord,

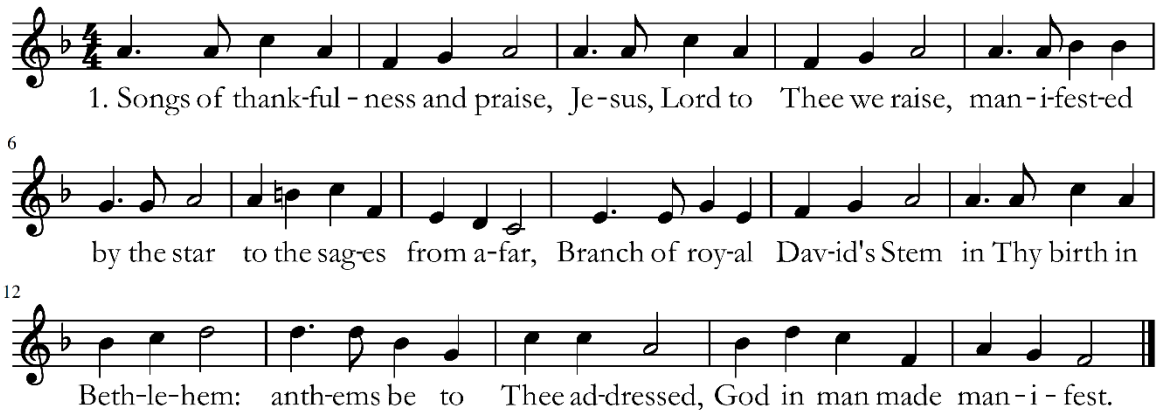
and in Jerusalem his praise,

when peoples gather together,

and kingdoms, to worship the Lord.

- Psalm 102:13, 18–22

SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE



1. Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je-sus, Lord to Thee we raise, man-i-fest-ed
 6 by the star to the sag-es from a-far, Branch of roy-al Dav-id's Stem in Thy birth in
 12 Beth-le-hem: anth-ems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.

2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,
 Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
 And at Cana wedding guest
 In Thy Godhead manifest;
 Manifest in pow'r divine,
 Changing water into wine;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed,
 God in man made manifest.

3. Manifest in making whole
 Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
 Manifest in valiant fight,
 Quelling all the devil's might;
 Manifest in gracious will,
 Ever bringing good from ill;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed,
 God in man made manifest.

4. Sun and moon shall darkened be,
 Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
 Christ will then like lightning shine,
 All will see His glorious sign;
 All will then the trumpet hear,
 All will see the Judge appear;
 Thou by all wilt be confessed,
 God in man made manifest.

5. Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
 Present in Thy holy Word
 Grace to imitate Thee now
 And be pure, as pure art Thou;
 That we might become like Thee
 At Thy great epiphany
 And may praise Thee, ever blest,
 God in man made manifest.

*Words: Christopher Wordsworth, 19th c.
 Music: Sir George Elvey, 19th c.*

READING

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

- 1 Timothy 6:13-16

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

1. Im - mortal, in - vis-i-ble, God on-ly wise, in light in-ac - ces-si-ble

7
hid from our eyes, most bless-ed most glo-rious, the An-cient of

12
Days, al - might-y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with line numbers 1, 7, and 12 indicating the start of each line.

2. Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

*Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 19th c.
Music: Traditional Welsh Melody*

CONFESSING OUR SINS

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *-John 8:12*

A new commandment I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. *-1 John 2:8-11*

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

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. *-Eph. 5:14*

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. *-1 John 2:12*

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

FAIREST LORD JESUS



1. Fair-est Lord Je - sus, Rul-er of all na - ture, Son of God and
7
Son of Man! Thee will I cher - ish, thee will I hon - or, thou,
13
my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.

2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and for evermore be thine.

*Words: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; tr. 1850, 1873
Music: Silesian Folk melody; Schlesische Volkslieder, Leipzig, 1842*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear God, thank you for giving us so many good things. You give us food to eat, clothes to wear, homes to live in, and family to care of us. In all that you have given us, help us in our gratitude to remember to give back to 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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 JOHN 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of

Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 90:8-17; ANTIPHON: I JOHN 1:5

Antiphon: God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

⁸You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

¹³Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast
love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you
have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

¹⁶Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

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.**

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 8:12-20

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.”¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is

not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true.¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: **“Unapproachable Light”**
Sermon Text: 1 John 1:5-10
Sermon Series: *The Beloved: Exposition of the Letters of John, II*
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

We will say the Nicene Creed during Christmas and Epiphany

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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 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.

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.*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly! Lord—God Al - might - y! Ear - ly in the

6
morn - ing our song shall rise to thee; ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

11
mer - ci-ful and might-y, God in three per-sons, bless-ed Trin - i - ty!

2. Holy, holy, holy!

All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and
evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy!

Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy;
there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name
in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

*Words: Reginald Heber, 19th c.
Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 19th 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: Louis Bourgeois, 16th c..*

DECLARATION OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Go in peace.

All music reprinted under CCLI SongSelect terms of use.
All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License #153561
CCLI Streaming License #21567482
All biblical text reprinted by permission from
The English Standard Version

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

- **Pray for Kurdish Christians** without a homeland to see **their value in God's eyes** and be a **light of hope** to their families and communities where they are **considered unwanted and dangerous**. **Pray for peace** for millions of **Kurds** and **spiritual revival**.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Redeemer Reformed Presbyterian Church, Queensbury; Ned Suffern, pastor**

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Danby Federated Church; Ed Enstine, pastor**

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

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

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Willow Glen Christian School**

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

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

NEW LIFE CHURCH

- **Angela Brodie: Praise** that her **Bible translation workshop** went well, and that she is **home safe**. **Pray** that her fellow **translators** will have **no trouble** getting **travel permissions** for the next workshop.
- **Ryan Yoo: Praise** that his **family in L.A.** are safe from the **wildfires**, and that their **home** also survived. **Pray** for all those **affected** by the **wildfires**, and that they would **end soon**.
- **Ada Robinson: Pray** for the family of her **sister**, as they mourn her **father-in-law's death**, and **praise** that he is now **with the Lord**.
- **David Williamson: Pray** for **David's brother-in-law Joe**, who was laid off and is **looking for new employment**.
- **Alec Duquette: Pray** for his **roommate Xiao** as he **transfers to Notre Dame** to pursue his studies. **Pray** that he will **find a church** and continue to **grow in his faith** there.
- **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

Welcome Back Reception – TODAY

Please plan to stick around after the service today for doughnuts and fellowship, and stay for the congregational meeting (see below.)

Congregational Meeting – TODAY

Our annual congregational meeting to present the budget, discuss finances, and set the tone for the coming year will be on Sunday, January 26th, convening 30 minutes after the end of the service.

Church Potluck – February 2

On Sunday February 2nd, please plan to stick around after the service for a potluck lunch. A sign-up sheet will be coming soon.

New Life University Returns February 9

We'll have our Spring New Life U class starting Feb. 9th. We will be taking a survey of the entire Bible. Meeting dates are Feb. 9 and 16, and March 9, 16, and 23.

Rotating Dinner Groups

We'll be having two sets of rotating dinner groups this Spring. Three volunteers to host are needed. We'll have sign-ups soon.

Youth Group – January hiatus

Youth group will resume on Friday, February 14. Remember to memorize the first 10 catechism questions!

Morning Prayer & Pastor Tim's "Office Hours" – Tuesdays

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

contact us

Senior Pastor:

The Reverend Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy
tim@newlifeithaca.org

Elder:

David Williamson – david@newlifeithaca.org

Church Contact:

950 Danby Road
Suite 195
Ithaca, New York 14850

607.277.8398 www.newlifeithaca.org

New Life Presbyterian is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Please let us know you worshiped with us today!

We would like to acknowledge your presence with us today. You will not be added to any mailing lists without your permission and we will not share your information with anyone. Please fill this out and place it in the offering when it comes by.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Prayer Requests: _____

-
- 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: _____