

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30, 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, Ravena, Italy The letters IOHAN-NIS spell John in Latin.

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

God, that cannot lie, hath given sufficient assurance to the world that Jesus Christ is his Son, the Son of his love, and Son by office, to reconcile and recover the world unto himself; he testified therefore the truth and divine origin of the Christian religion, and that it is the sure appointed way and means of bringing us to God.

-Matthew Henry, 17th c.

No other way of obtaining life has been appointed for us by God the Father.

-John Calvin, 16th c.

Listen for thy confirmation in hope, for thy security, if thou knowest thyself to be among the members of Christ. "I have sworn once by My holiness that I will not lie unto David." Dost thou wait till God swear a second time? How often is He to swear, if in one oath He is false? One oath He made for our life, who sent His Only One to die for us.

-St. Augustine, 5th c.

We are then righteous when we confess that we are sinners, and our righteousness depends not upon our own merits, but on the mercy of God.

-St. Jerome, 4th c.

The Spirit, that is, of sanctification, and the blood of redemption, and the water of baptism: because the three are one, and remain undivided, and none of them is separated from this connection; because the catholic Church lives and progresses by this faith, so that in Christ Jesus neither the manhood without the true Godhead nor the Godhead without the true manhood is believed in.

-Pope St. Leo the Great, 4th c.

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

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

THE WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

-Psalm 51:17

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

-Psalm 95:1

Let us pray.

COLLECT

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

- Psalm 51:1-6

ROCK OF AGES







- 2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfil thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
- 3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

THE DECALOGUE

And God spoke all these words, saying,

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

- Exodus 20:1-17

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! ² Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

- Psalm 143:1-2

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

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



Continue to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to His people on earth.

OH, GIVE THANKS

1. We were wand'ring in the desert
With our souls so starved and weak
We were hungry for a homeland
We did not know how to seek
But we lifted up our voices
To the only One who hears
And the God of mercy came and brought us
near

Chorus

Oh give thanks to the Lord
For His love endures forever
We were wandering and lost
And our Father brought us home
To a safe dwelling place
To a feast of joy and laughter
Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good

2. We were locked out of the garden And our backs bend down with pain In the shadow of death's darkness We were slaves to sin and blame Then we cried out in our labor To the only One who hears And the God of mercy wiped away our tears *Chorus*

- 3. We were fools in our rebellion
 With our hunger strike of pride
 We were sick and growing closer
 To the death we should have died
 Then He heard of our condition
 And He called us by our names
 And the God of glory took away our shame
 Chorus
- 4. We were far out on the ocean
 Making wealth and chasing dreams
 But the waves of great destruction
 Brought us trembling to our knees
 And we cried like drunken sailors
 To the only One who hears
 And the God of comfort took away our fears
 Chorus

Words and Music: Wendell Kimbrough Text: Psalm 107

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear God, your son Jesus was pierced by a spear in his side after he died on the cross and water and blood came out. We thank you that we are united to you in our baptisms and in taking the Lord's Supper. Help us always to believe that Jesus your Son is fully God and is the savior of the world. Amen.

PRAISES AND PETITIONS

Please see page 22 for the prayers this week.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are visiting, or have a contact update, please scan the QR code below and fill out the form. Please see announcements on page 23.



THE LORD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 JOHN 5:6-21

This is he who came by water and blood— Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. 9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in

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

whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

¹⁸We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

¹⁹We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

THE PSALM: PSALM 34:17-22; ANTIPHON: 1 JOHN 5:6

Antiphon: This is he who came by water and blood-- Jesus Christ.

- ¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- ¹⁸ The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
- ¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

This is he who came by water and blood-- Jesus Christ.

- ²⁰ He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.
- ²¹ Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- ²² The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

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.

This is he who came by water and blood-- Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 19:30-37

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: "Whom Do You Serve?"

Sermon Text: 1 John 5:6-21

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

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. 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

THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

EUCHARIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is proper and right to do so.

Truly it is proper, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we do praise You that You did send unto us Your only-begotten Son and that in Him, being found in fashion as a man, You did manifest the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the Church on earth, we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

THE ACCLAMATION

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

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of Faith:

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

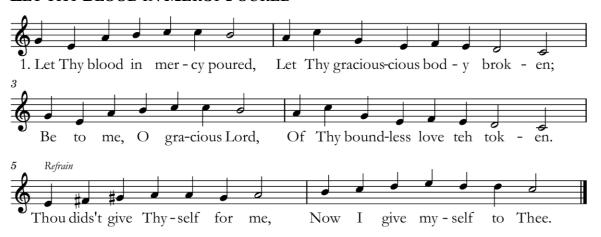
Lord Jesus Christ, I recognize that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

For Those Struggling with Sin

If you are a baptized believer in Christ who is struggling with sin, you should still come forward for communion. As it says in our Larger Catechism 172:

One who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, may have true interest in Christ, though he be not yet assured thereof; and in God's account hath it, if he be duly affected with the apprehension of the want of it, and unfeignedly desires to be found in Christ, and to depart from iniquity: in which case (because promises are made, and this sacrament is appointed, for the relief even of weak and doubting Christians) he is to bewail his unbelief, and labour to have his doubts resolved; and, so doing, he may and ought to come to the Lord's supper, that he may be further strengthened.

LET THY BLOOD IN MERCY POURED



2. Thou didst die that I might live; blessed Lord, thou cam'st to save me; all that love of God could give Jesus by his sorrows gave me. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

- 3. By the thorns that crowned thy brow, by the spear wound and the nailing, by the pain and death, I now claim, O Christ, thy love unfailing. [Refrain]
- 4. Wilt thou own the gift I bring? All my penitence I give thee; thou art my exalted King, of thy matchless love forgive me. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

The Pastor pronounces a blessing upon the congregation from Scripture.

Doxology

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

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

DECLARATION OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Go in peace.

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The English Standard Version

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

O Continue to pray for the church in Syria under interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa. Pray for peace among various militant groups vying for power, and that the church would have freedom to worship and minister under the new government leaders.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

Christ Central Church, Buffalo; Chris Jhu, pastor

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

o West Hill Community Church; Justin Pepicelli, pastor

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

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

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

- o Hannah Eagleson: Pray for her husband Nathan as he works on his tenure file
- o Ann Williamson: Pray as she travels to Glasgow to visit Abigail. Pray for traveling mercies and for blessings on her visit.
- o Lucy LeCroy: Pray for her therapist Sophie, who is pregnant with her first child.
- O Pray for all New Life alums working for the federal government, that they would retain their jobs and funding during this time. Pray also for those working at Cornell who may be affected by the related hiring freezes and budget cuts.
- Pray for all the victims of abuse in the worldwide church, that they will receive justice and healing.
- Praise that our church's financial footing has improved, and that people would continue to give.

If you do not wish to have praises and requests shared during the worship service printed in the bulletin for the next three weeks, please inform Angela Brodie in an email (angelabrodie@gmail.com).

life @ new life

Potluck Lunch - TODAY

After worship, please stay with us to enjoy a potluck lunch together, beginning immediately following the service.

Ladies' Bible Study – Upcoming Dates

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

Youth Group, April 11, 6:30PM

We'll have youth group a week earlier this month due to Holy Week.

Holy Week Services

We will have three opportunities for worship and reflection during Holy Week (April 14-18). We will have a video presentation of the <u>Stations of the Cross</u> at Noon on Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be a <u>Maundy Thursday</u> service at 7:30PM and a <u>Good Friday</u> service at 7:30PM, all at the church.

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

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

contact us

Senior Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy tim@newlifeithaca.org

Elder:

David Williamson – david@newlifeithaca.org

Church Contact: 950 Danby Road Suite 195 Ithaca, New York 14850

Other comments: _

607.277.8398 www.newlifeithaca.org

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

Please let us know you worshiped with us today!

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

First N	Jame: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.