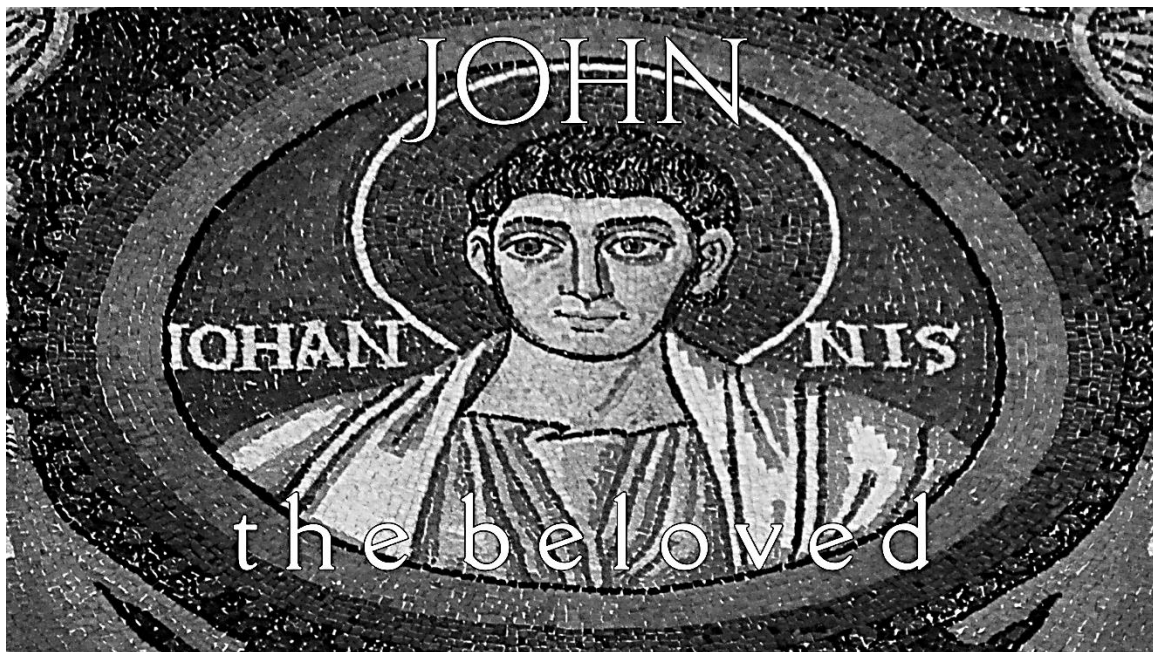


NEW LIFE



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 23, 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
The letters IOHAN-NIS spell John in Latin.*

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

If men will not be governed by the Ten Commandments, they shall be governed by the ten thousand commandments.

-G. K. Chesterton

In the first commandment, God means: “Since I alone am God, you shall place all your confidence, trust and faith on me alone, and on no one else.”

-Martin Luther, Larger Catechism

All the divine commandments end in love, of which the apostle says, 'Now the goal of the commandment is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.' (1 Tim. 1:5)

-St. Augustine, Enchiridion

We confess and acknowledge one only God, to whom only we must cleave, whom only we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom only we must put our trust.

-The Scots Confession of Faith, 1562

The love of God is no idle thing.

-John Calvin, 16th c.

Only someone who is on fire with the love of his Maker can be said to love his fellow humans in the right way.

-The Venerable Bede, 7th c.

If your only goal is to love, there is no such thing as failure.

-Richard Rohr

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.

Let us pray.

COLLECT

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.

The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.

You destroy those who speak lies;
the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.
I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.

- Psalm 1:6; 5:4-8

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

1. I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
6 Lay down, thou wear - y one, lay down, Thy head up-on my breast."
11 I came to Jes - sus as I was, so wear - y worn and sad.
17 I found in him a rest - ing place; and he has made me glad.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff starts at measure 6. The third staff starts at measure 11. The fourth staff starts at measure 17 and ends with a double bar line.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live.
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in Him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
I am this dark world's Light;
look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in Him my Star, my Sun;
and in that Light of life I'll walk,
till trav'ling days are done.

Words: Horatious Bonar, 1845
Music: Thomas Tallis, 1567

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

Rend your hearts and not your garments.

Return to the LORD your God,

for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;

and he relents over disaster.

-- Joel 2:13

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.



1. Lord, have mer - cy on me! Lord, have mer - cy on me!
2. Christ, have mer - cy on me! Christ, have mer - cy on me!
3. Lord, have mer - cy on me! Lord, have mer - cy on me!

5



O Lord, have mer - cy! Oh, Lord, have mer - cy!

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.

Words and Music: Sandra McCracken and Thad Cockrell, 2015

Adapted by: Timothy R. LeCroy

Used with permission of the artist

JESUS PAID IT ALL

1. I hear the Savior say,
"Your strength indeed is small,
child of weakness, watch and pray,
find in me your all in all."

2. Lord, now indeed I find
your power, and yours alone,
can change the leper's spots,
and melt the heart of stone.

Refrain:

**Jesus paid it all,
all to him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain, He—
washed it white as snow.**

3. For nothing good have I
whereby your grace to claim
I'll wash my garments white
in the blood of Calv'ry's lamb.

[Refrain]

4. And when, before the throne,
I stand in him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
my lips shall still repeat.

[Refrain]

*Words: Elvina Mabel Hall, 1865
Music: John Thomas Grape, 1868*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear God, we want to worship and love only you, but there are many things in our lives that distract us and demand our love and attention. Please help us to keep our focus on you. 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 4:15-5:5

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.²¹ And this commandment we have from

him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

^{5:1} Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 18:1-6; ANTIPHON: 1 JOHN 4:19

Antiphon: We love because he first loved us.

¹ I love you, O Lord, my strength.

² The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³ I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

We love because he first loved us.

⁴ The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;

⁵ the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

We love because he first loved us.

⁶ In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

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.

We love because he first loved us.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 6:56-71

Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit

and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” ⁷⁰Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” ⁷¹He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: "Surrender"
Sermon Text: 1 John 4:14-5:5
Sermon Series: *The Beloved: Exposition of the Letters of John, X*
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

EUCCHARIST

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:

Ho-ly! Ho-ly! Ho-ly is the Lord! Ho-ly! Ho-ly! Ho-ly is the

8 Lord! Heav'n and earth are full of Your Glo - ry! Ho-ly! Ho-ly!

15 Ho-ly is the Lord! Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na to the Lord! Ho-

22 san-na! Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na in the high-est! Bless-ed is he who

28 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na to the Lord!

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.*

WITH BROKEN HEART AND CONTRITE SIGH



1. With broken heart and contrite sigh, a trembling sin - ner, Lord, I cry:



Thy pardning grace is rich and free: O God, be mer-ci - ful to me.

2. I smite upon my troubled breast
With deep and conscious guilt oppressed
Christ and His cross my only plea
O God be merciful to me

3. Far off I stand with tearful eyes
Nor dare uplift them to the skies
But Thou dost all my anguish see
O God be merciful to me

4. Nor alms nor deeds that I have done
Can for a single sin atone
To Calvary alone I flee
O God be merciful to me

5. And when redeemed from sin and hell
With all the ransomed throng I dwell
My raptured song shall ever be
God has been merciful to me

*Words: Cornelius Elven, 1852
Music: Thomas Campion 1613*

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

- **Pray** for the church in **Afghanistan** which has **experienced so much tribulation** since the **Taliban's return to power**. **Pray** for **Afghan Christians living as refugees** outside their home country, for **God to preserve the lives** of those who remain, and for the **light of Christ to penetrate the darkness** of these communities.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Hope Presbyterian Church, Ballston Spa; Nate Thompson**, senior pastor, and **James Farinacci**, pastor of congregational care

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

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

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Matt Coburn, Trinity Baptist Church** in **New Haven, CT**

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Willow Glen Christian School**

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

- **Hannah Eagleson: Pray** for her husband **Nathan** as he works on his **tenure file**
- **Ann Williamson: Praise** that her **sister Karen's knee surgery** was a **success**, and that she is quickly **recovering**.
- **Lucy LeCroy: Pray** for her **therapist Sophie**, who is **pregnant** with her first child.
- **Pray** for **Allison Huang**, director of the **Christian Legal Society** at Cornell, who is currently **pregnant**.
- **Cindy Kao and Bo-Jhang Ho: Praise** for the **birth** of their baby, **Kira**, on Saturday, February 8.
- **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

New Life University – Last Class Today

Join us for our last session of New Life U immediately following today's service. We will be wrapping up our survey of the entire Bible.

Meals for Cindy Kao and Bo-Jhang Ho

Let's help Cindy & Bo's new baby Kira out by feeding her mom and dad, so they have more time to cater to her needs instead of their own! Thank you to those who have already volunteered – there are still more slots left to fill. If you haven't received the email to sign up, please see Rachel LeCroy.

Next Potluck Lunch – Next Sunday, March 30

Plan on staying after the service on Sunday, March 30, to enjoy a potluck meal together! The theme of this potluck is Dips and Appetizers. If you didn't receive an email with the sign up list, please see Rachel LeCroy.

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.

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 Stations of the Cross at Noon on Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be a Maundy Thursday service at 7:30PM and a Good Friday 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:

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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: _____