

NEW LIFE



THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 2, 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: "Simeon and Jesus," Rembrandt van Rijn, c. 1669

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

[The Lord Jesus] did confer the Spirit upon the Church, sending throughout all the world the Comforter from heaven, from whence also the Lord tells us that the devil, like lightning, was cast down. Wherefore we have need of the dew of God, that we be not consumed by fire, nor be rendered unfruitful, and that where we have an accuser there we may have also an Advocate, the Lord [Jesus].

-St. Irenaeus of Lyon, 2nd c.

Christ is our Advocate, for he appears before God that he may exercise towards us the power and efficacy of his sacrifice. The intercession of Christ is a continual application of his death for our salvation.

-John Calvin, 16th c.

At His birth we duly kept Festival, both I, the leader of the Feast, and you, and all that is in the world and above the world. With the Star we ran, and with the Magi we worshipped, and with the Shepherds we were illuminated, and with the Angels we glorified Him, and with Simeon we took Him up in our arms, and with Anna the aged and chaste we made our responsive confession. And thanks be to Him who came to His own in the guise of a stranger, because He glorified the stranger. Now, we come to another action of Christ, and another mystery. I cannot restrain my pleasure; I am rapt into God. Almost like John I proclaim good tidings; for though I be not a Forerunner, yet am I from the desert. Christ is illumined, let us shine forth with Him. Christ is baptized, let us descend with Him that we may also ascend with Him.

-St. Gregory Nazianzus, 4th c.

There is no chance that what [Jesus] urges in God's presence will be rejected because it fails to measure up to the standard of the righteous judge, because the Intercessor is of the same sterling character.

-Robert Yarbrough

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 everliving God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts, 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

We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,

in the midst of your temple.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised

in the city of our God!

His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,

Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

Within her citadels

God has made himself known as a fortress.

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts,

in the city of our God, which God will establish forever.

We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,

in the midst of your temple.

- Psalm 48:1-3, 8, 9

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*

READING

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

- *Luke 2:22-28*

SIMEON'S SONG



1. Lord bid your ser-vant go in peace, Your word is now ful -



filled. These eyes have seen sal - va-tion's dawn, this child so long fore-told.

2. This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles promised light
Gods glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel

4. Almighty Father, hear our cry
Through Christ the only Son,
Whom in the Spirit we adore
For ages evermore

3. Behold this child will pierce your heart
His Word will be a sword
A sign opposed to hearts concealed
And grace for heavens adored

Words: Bruce Benedict, 2011
Music: The Kentucky Harmony, 1816

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.

JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS



1. Je - sus keep me near the cross, there a pre - cious foun - tain,

5



free to all a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.

9

REFRAIN



In the Cross, in the Cross, be my glo - ry ev - er;

13



till my rap - tured soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the Bright and Morning Star
shed its beams around me. *[Refrain]*

Refrain:

**In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever;
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. *[Refrain]*

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *[Refrain]*

*Words: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1869
Music: William Howard Doane, 1869*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear Jesus, as Simeon held your baby boy in the Temple and sang a song of praise, may we also praise you and present your Son to others as the savior of the world. 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 2:1-6

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

⁴Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 51:1-12; ANTIPHON: I JOHN 2:1B-2A

Antiphon: We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

² He is the propitiation for our sins.

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

**We have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.**

² He is the propitiation for our sins.

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴Against 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.
⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

**We have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.**

² He is the propitiation for our sins.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

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 have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.**

² He is the propitiation for our sins.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 1:19-29

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)
²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title:	"Christ Our Advocate"
Sermon Text:	1 John 1:5-10
Sermon Series:	<i>The Beloved: Exposition of the Letters of John, III</i>
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

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 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.*

BREAD OF THE WORLD, IN MERCY BROKEN



1. Bread of the world, in mer - cy bro - ken, Wine of the
2. Look on the heart by sor - row bro - ken, look on the



soul, in mer - cy shed, by whom the words of life were
tears by sin - ners shed, and be thy feast to us the



spo - ken, and in whose death our sins are dead:
to - ken that by thy grace our souls are fed.

Words: Reginald Heber, 1827

Music: J. S. B. Hodges, 1868

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.

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

- **Pray** for those **suffering from famine in Somalia**, due to **90% of wheat imports** (from Russia and Ukraine) to the country **have halted**. **Malnutrition** affects **2 out of 5 children** in Somalia and **humanitarian aid** has **not been able to reach them**. **Pray** that the **Lord will provide** for the needs of these **families and churches**, and for **peace** in the areas that have **impacted their food supply**.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, Rock Tavern; **Kevin Chiarot**, pastor

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **First Ithaca Chinese Christian Church**; **Bin Tang** and **Paul Epp**, pastors

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Will and Julia Dickerson**, OMS in **Budapest, Hungary**

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

- **Scott Brodie**: **Praise** that his **mom's chemo is working**, and **pray** that the resulting **nerve damage** would be minimal.
- **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.
- **Brad Helmetzie**: **Praise** that **Richard**, the father of his brother-in-law, is **improving**.
- **Lucy LeCroy**: **Pray** that we would know **how to treat the migraines** that she has begun having, and that they would be **rare**.
- **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

Church Potluck – TODAY

Please plan to stick around after the service today for a potluck lunch! All are welcome.

New Life University Returns Next Sunday

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. We have identified dinner hosts. Today we will begin sign-ups for groups. We'll also have a sign up come around on-line.

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

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The Reverend Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy
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Elder:

David Williamson – david@newlifeithaca.org

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

Please let us know you worshiped with us today!

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

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Prayer Requests: _____

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- I am an out-of-town visitor.
 - I reside locally and I am visiting New Life Church today.
 - I would like more information about New Life. Please have someone contact me.
 - Please send me more information about: _____
 - I would like to meet the pastor for coffee.

Other comments: _____