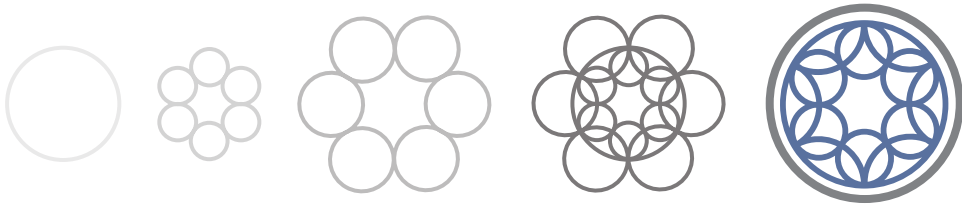




NEW CITY
presbyterian church

DECEMBER 3, 2023 – FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

WELCOME TO NEW CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



New City is a collection of people of all ages and professions, from a wide variety of spiritual and social backgrounds. We embrace Jesus' claims to be true and transformational. We also believe the central message of the Bible is the good news, or "gospel," of a God who created us for Himself and desires us to live fully as we enjoy relationship with Him and with each other.

The Bible's radical message of grace centers on Jesus and creates a new city comprised of renewed individuals living not for themselves but for the God who redeems. For this reason, New City exists to be a community rooted in truth, real in conversation, and hopeful for deep renewal in our lives and in that of those around us.

It is our privilege to welcome you and to invite you to be astonished, together with us, by the splendor and grace of God.

New City Session

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NEW CITY VISION & VALUES

*To be a church in awe of God,
made new by the gospel, for the sake of all people.*

Our vision leads us to hold closely three values that shape our life and ministry as a church:

ROOTED CONVICTION in the truths of God's Word

REAL CONVERSATION as we engage the gospel, culture, and each other

RENEWAL OF THE CITY as we live and do life in relationship with God

God always comes to us before we can come to Him. Biblical worship is a response to God's gracious revelation of Himself, calling us to worship.



CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 11:1-2

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

GATHERING HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

O come, Thou, Dayspring from on high
And cause Thy light on us to rise
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord
And turn the key to heaven's door
Be Thou our comforter and guide
And lead us to the Father's side
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall by His word our darkness dispel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Tr. John Mason Neale, Bob Kauflin, Steve Cook. Ancient,
Ancient, © 2014, Sovereign Grace Praise
CCLI #7031873*

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede
Thy sacrifice, our only plea
The judgment we no longer fear
Thy precious blood has brought us near
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Has banished every fear of hell

O Come, Thou King of nations bring
An end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again with us to dwell

The Advent wreath originated as a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his 'advent' (from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'arrival'). One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit the second Sunday, etc. The final candle—the Christ candle—is lit on Christmas Day, symbolizing the birth of Jesus Christ; the arrival of the light of the world.

ADVENT LITURGY

SCRIPTURE READING – LUKE 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF HOPE AND PEACE

ADVENT LITANY

LEADER: As we continue in this season of anticipation, we marvel at the unfolding of God's gracious plan through the advent of Jesus.

CONGREGATION: Faced with the reality that, 'nothing is impossible with God,' we find the assurance of God's mighty work in our own hearts, in our congregation, and in our communities.

LEADER: The Son of the Most High comes resplendent in holiness and also with boundless grace.

CONGREGATION: Because of Him, God forgives our sin, remembering them no more, and also graciously imputes to us the righteousness of Christ, so that we may nevermore come into condemnation but always stand in His favor.

LEADER: In union with Christ, we are reconciled to God and enjoy peace with Him.

ALL: Together, we await the arrival of Jesus, our Savior, who brings salvation, new life, and eternal peace with God and man.

PRAYER

CHRISTMAS HYMN

Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold

God most high in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay, the Invincible
Maker of Mary, now Mary's Son

O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall
Grace and majesty, what humility
Come on bended knee, adore Him

Sing We The Song Of Emmanuel

*Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, Matt Boswell.
© 2015 Messenger Hymns
CCLI #7078042*

Go spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads, for your King has come
Sing for the light overwhelms the dark

Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive, let the gospel ring
God has made a way, He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus

Gloria, gloria

Gloria, gloria

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISITING US?

We would love to know more about you and how to serve you. Please scan this QR code with your smartphone to let us know you came and so we can follow-up with you.



TITHES & OFFERINGS

FOR TEXT & ONLINE GIVING

Text dollar amount (e.g.: \$50) to 843-21

Give online through Church Center by scanning the QR code.

Alternatively, A dropbox is available in the Welcome Area for cash or check offerings.



All we have is given to us by God. Our offerings express this joyful dependence, and our commitment to join God in His work of renewal.

CHOIR OFFERTORY

All is well all is well
Angels and men rejoice
For tonight darkness fell
Into the dawn of love's light
Sing Ale
Sing Alleluia

All is well all is well
Let there be peace on earth
Christ's come go and tell
That He is in the manger
Sing Ale
Sing Alleluia

All is well all is well
Lift up your voices and sing
Born is now Emmanuel
Born is our Lord and Savior
Sing Alleluia
Sing Alleluia
All is well

Born is now Emmanuel
Born is our Lord and Savior
Sing Alleluia
Sing Alleluia
All is well

All Is Well

Michael W. Smith, Wayne Kirkpatrick.
© Warner Chappell Music

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

During the remainder of our worship service, preschool-aged children are welcome to stay with their parents in the Sanctuary, or will now be dismissed to attend Kids' Bible Time.

The Pastoral Prayer is a time to express our gratitude for—and dependence on—God's provision for the life and ministry of His Church.

In anticipation of the proclamation of God's Word, we lift a prayer of illumination to God asking Him to speak to us through His living and active Word.

Elder Oliver Jeromin

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Zechariah 13:1-2 (ESV)

¹ "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

² "And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness.

When we hear the Word of God proclaimed and preached, we are listening to the voice of God. The Holy Spirit makes the inspired texts and spoken words the chief means of nourishing and comforting God's people, and awakening others to new faith.

SERMON SERIES

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Rev. Tommy Myrick

"The Fountain"



SUNDAY, DEC 3
"The Sun"
Malachi 4:1-6

SUNDAY, DEC 10
"The Fountain"
Zechariah 13:1-2

SUNDAY, DEC 17
"The King"
Psalm 24:7-10

SUNDAY, DEC 24
"The Shepherd"
Micah 5:1-4

5PM CHRISTMAS EVE
"The Glory"
Haggai 2:1-9

SUNDAY, DEC 31
"The Holy"
Isaiah 41:14-16



DOXOLOGY

Praise God Who Promised Long Ago
© 2019, Javier Contesse.

The word "doxology" comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament word for worship. Throughout our service, we respond to the gospel of God's grace with songs of praise!

Praise God who promised long ago
A Savior, fount of all our hope;
Emmanuel, our God and King.
All praise, in Spirit, to Him bring!
Amen.

The Call To Repentance is an invitation to privately examine and prepare our hearts to confess our sins.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

ALL

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Because of the gospel, our relationship with God is a relationship in which honesty about our sin is welcome and safe. Therefore, with one voice, we are able to openly and sincerely confess our sins to our merciful God.

Gracious God, we come before You acknowledging our sin and uncleanness. We have allowed people, things, feelings, and idols of all sorts to war for our allegiance and affections; we long for an undivided heart but struggle with distraction and waywardness. We carry the stain of our sinful thoughts and actions, yet in our helpless state You offer us a fountain of righteousness in which to be cleansed; the blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We lay our faults at Your feet, seeking the grace You so freely offer. In the advent of our Lord, we find the courage to confess and know that we rest with our hearts at peace with You. Amen.

MINISTER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Ephesians 1:7

God's Word assures us of our forgiveness in Christ, and we cannot but continue in praise to the grace, mercy, and peace offered to us in Christ.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion—also known as the Lord’s Supper—has always been a common, shared, joyous family meal. This meal is for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ; for those Baptized Christians who trust in His once-for-all sacrificial death upon the cross for their salvation. When we celebrate this feast, we commune with the risen Lord Jesus who stands as our host to offer spiritual nourishment, renewal and life. We also commune with one another, participating together in the reconciling grace of God.

We warmly welcome to the table all who trust in Jesus and who have publicly professed their faith as members of a Christian congregation. At New City, we ask our children not to take communion until they have met with the elders to share of their faith in Christ, although all children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and a word of encouragement. If you are not a Christian, we encourage you to spend this time reflecting on the prayers below in the hopes that a relationship with Jesus and membership in His Church may be considered.

You will be directed to make your way to one of the four stations in our sanctuary where you will receive the bread and the wine (gluten-free cracker and grape juice available). Please take it back to your place so we can partake together.

**Jesus is truly and spiritually present and stands ready to feed you.
Come hungry. Come thirsty. Come ready to be filled.**

MINISTER

All who can examine themselves regarding their faith and participation in Christ, are invited to commune with Him at the Lord’s Table.

INVITATION & FENCING OF THE TABLE

MINISTER

This prayer is offered to set apart the bread and the wine as holy, for the purpose of spiritually nourishing us through our communing with Christ.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS FOR PRAYING DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

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

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as my Savior. Amen.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

I do not presume to come to Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but only in Your righteousness credited to me. I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord whose manner is always to show mercy. Grant me, O Lord, the grace to commune now with Christ by faith, that I may evermore live in Him and He in me. Amen.

ALL

HYMN AT THE TABLE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*Gerard Moultrie.
1864, Public Domain*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly-minded for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to Earth descendeth our full homage to demand

King of kings yet born of Mary as of old on Earth He stood
Lord of Lords in human vesture in the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food

Rank on rank the hosts of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away

At His feet the six winged seraph Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to His presence as with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia Lord most high

MINISTER

The Words of Institution echo Jesus' words at the Last Supper, which now invite us to partake of the bread and wine in remembrance of Him.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND
PARTAKING OF THE BREAD & WINE**

**NC KIDS
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Unto Us

BENEDICTION

Our gathered worship service concludes with God's blessing; a joyful declaration of God's satisfaction in us in Jesus Christ, and a vow to be in fellowship with us wherever we may go.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund Contributions as of 12/06/23	\$ 691,290
General Fund 2023 Revised Annual Budget	\$ 726,593
Mortgage Balance as of 12/06/23	\$ 284,760

TEACHING ELDERS

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#11108317

WIFI PASSWORD

NewCity2022!

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NEWCITYPC.ORG

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tex **newcitytexts** to 97-000.

Find us on YouTube

under the **@newcitypc** handle.



VISITING US?

Thank you for spending some time with us and getting to know us first-hand! We are excited to finally be in our property and in this season of transition into our beautiful new building. We would love to know more about you and how to serve you. Please scan this QR code with your smartphone to let us know you came and so that we can follow-up with you.



CHURCH CENTER

Church Center is our hub for all things New City. From knowing what's happening next, to signing up for an event or small group, to requesting baptism or prayer, to online giving, all your next steps for getting involved at New City are there at newcitypc.churchcenter.com



NEED PRAYER?

Our Prayer ministry team seeks to undergird and strengthen New City's congregation, mission, and ministries through prayer. Please let us know how we can pray for you!