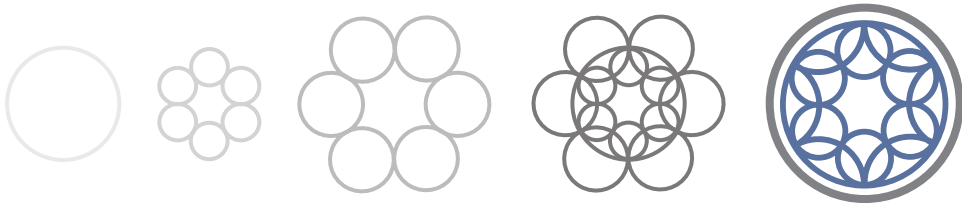


NEW CITY
presbyterian church

DECEMBER 24, 2023 – FOURTH 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

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, the mercy our God has shown
To those who sit in death's shadow
The sun on high pierced the night
Born was the Cornerstone

*Unto us a Son is given,
Unto us a Child is born*

*He Who is mighty has done a great thing
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame
Holy is His name*

Oh, the freedom our Savior won
The yoke of sin has been broken
Once a slave, now by grace
No more condemnation

Now my soul magnifies the Lord
I rejoice in the God Who saves
I will trust His unfailing love
I will sing His praises all my days

He Who Is Mighty

Rebecca Elliot, Kate DeGraide.
© 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise
CCLI #7031870

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 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE

ADVENT LITANY

LEADER: On this last day of Advent, we gather to celebrate God's love manifest in a humble manger in Bethlehem.

CONGREGATION: In the simplicity of a stable, God's intricate love for humanity was revealed.

LEADER: From the small town of Bethlehem, a vast love spread to all corners of the earth.

CONGREGATION: In Jesus, God's love became tangible, dwelling among us and within us.

LEADER: May this all-surpassing love fill our hearts, guiding us to love others as Christ loves us.

ALL: Together, in love, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel, God with us.

PRAYER

CHRISTMAS HYMN

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

*"Glory to God (Glory to God!)
In the highest,
Glory to God (Glory to God!)
As He shares with you His peace"*

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

*Edmund Sears, Richard Willis, Javier Contesse.
1850, Public Domain*

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

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

Ding dong merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding dong verily the sky
Is riv'n with angels singing

Gloria Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis

E'en so here below, below
Let steeple bells be swungen
And i-o, i-o, i-o
By priest and people sungen

Gloria Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

*George Ratcliffe Woodward.
1924, Public Domain.*

Pray ye, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers
May ye beautifully rhyme
Your evetime song ye singers

Gloria Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis
In excelsis, in excelsis,
in excelsis, in excelsis
Hosanna in excelsis

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

Elder Mark Krieg

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

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.

Micah 5 1-4 (ESV)

¹ Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel
on the cheek.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

"The Shepherd"



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.

Heavenly Father, as we approach the celebration of Your Son's birth, we confess that our hearts have not always mirrored the love He embodies. Amid the busyness of this season, we have missed opportunities to love well, and have failed to reflect the grace You so kindly extend to us. Forgive us for allowing impatience and indifference to eclipse compassion and kindness. For our apathy towards You and those around us, we seek Your mercy. As the Advent season draws to a close, help us to wholly embrace the love You sent to redeem and renew our hearts, so that we may learn to love like You. In the name of Jesus, whose arrival we joyfully anticipate, we offer this prayer. Amen.

MINISTER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

1 John 4:9-10

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.

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Charles Wesley.
1747, Public Domain*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all Thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

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



SENDING HYMN

For to us a Child is born,
And to us a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon His shoulder

*And His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God (Joy to the world the Lord has come!)
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6
ESV translation.

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.

BENEDICTION

FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund Contributions as of 12/20/23	\$ 736,307
General Fund 2023 Revised Annual Budget	\$ 726,593
Mortgage Balance as of 12/20/23	\$ 284,760

TEACHING ELDERS

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CCLI LICENSE

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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!