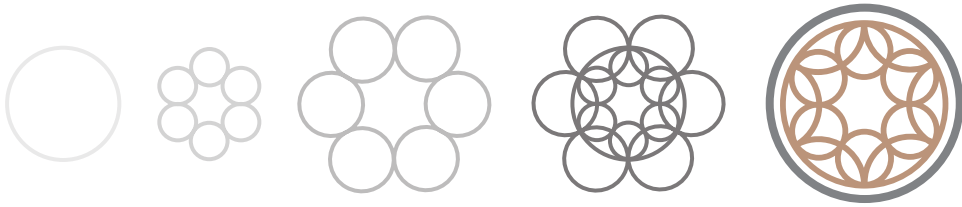




NEW CITY
presbyterian church

DECEMBER 24, 2023 – CHRISTMAS EVE

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.

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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

LITURGY FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

As we gather to worship this morning, take a moment to reflect on this important historical event as a way to prepare for an encounter with the living God.

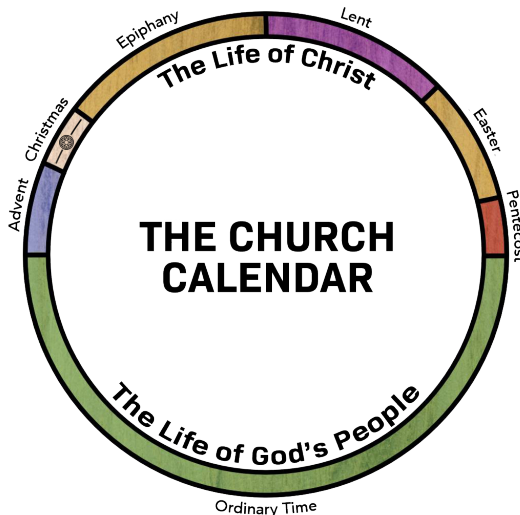
WORD ON WORSHIP

Christmas & Epiphany

Christmas is the celebration of God Himself taking on flesh to live among His people with the purpose of fully revealing His redemptive plan for the world. The wait of Advent is over, and we rejoice in the Christmastide which will usher in a new liturgical season. Epiphany, which literally means “to show” or “make known,” is about Jesus Christ being revealed as both the divine Son of God and as Savior to the whole world. There are three specific stories within the Scriptures that mark the season of Epiphany. First, though typically connected to the Christmas narrative, the journey of the Magi reminds us that Christ came not just for the Jews but also for the Gentiles, showing God’s heart for the nations and the continued fulfillment of His promise to Abraham. The two other events that mark Epiphany are the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and the miracle at the wedding feast in Cana. Both events, in their own way, reveal the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Focused on the coming of Jesus as the Son of God and the hope of the nations, Epiphany marks a time of celebration, rededication and declaration. It is a season for us to affirm the truth that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, the Word

who became flesh to dwell among us, who was sent from the Father by the Spirit to reconcile people of all tribes, tongues and nations back to the Father by the Spirit. And, as we affirm the manifestation of Jesus Christ, we are called to renew our faith in Him and to proclaim the good news that Jesus came to save sinners—both Jews and Gentiles. Some even say Epiphany serves as a sort of break between the coming of Christ and the passion of Christ, a season to rest in the promises of God fulfilled.



The Prelude serves as an invitation to gather, prepare our hearts, and focus our minds for an encounter with the living God.

This year, Christmas Eve falls on the Lord's Day, thus we continue in a concerted time of worship and we recall and respond to the word we received this morning.



PRELUDE

O Holy Night

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Micah 5:2-5

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.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

HYMN OF LONGING

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Tr. John Mason Neale.
Ancient, Public Domain.*

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

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

continued...

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, Shall come again with us to dwell



HYMN OF INVOCATION

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Rowland Hugh Prichard, Charles Wesley,
1744, Public Domain*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness, Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number, Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse, Of Thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing, News, glad tidings of a birth
"Go to Him, your praises bringing, Christ the Lord has come to earth"

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine own sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne

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 2:8-21

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

ADVENT LITANY

LEADER: On this holy night, we gather to reflect on a story unlike any other - the gospel. This story of redemption tells of an ever-loving God, a rebellious humanity, and the extraordinary means of restoration brought about in the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CONGREGATION: We recognize our place in this story, drawn to the truth of a God who sent His Son, Jesus, to be born as a man, embodying both divinity and humanity, to address our deepest plight: sin.

LEADER: Jesus, living a life of perfect obedience to the Father, revealed the full extent of God's holiness, love, and glory, conquering sin and death through His own sacrificial death, and rising to life so that those who would place their faith in His life-giving power may be saved.

ALL: Together, we celebrate this gift of salvation, embracing the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love brought to us through Jesus, our Savior. May our hearts be attuned to this gospel, resonating with gratitude and praise.

PRAYER

HYMN OF HOPE

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

*Phillips Brooks, Lewis Redner.
1868, Public Domain.*

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

HYMN OF WONDER

What Child Is This?

*William Chatterton Dix.
1871, Public Domain.*

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.



HYMN OF PROCLAMATION

Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest Heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time, behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, Felix Mendelssohn.
1739, Public Domain.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild, He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."



HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing over the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Angels We Have Heard On High

Tr. James Chadwick
1862, Public Domain.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo



As a confessional church,
we participate in the rich
heritage of biblically faithful
summaries which seek
to build and strengthen
our faith in Christ.
Creeds, Confessions, and
Catechisms serve us in this
regard, along with biblical
confessions.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Ligonier Statement on Christology

We confess the mystery and wonder
of God made flesh
and rejoice in our great salvation
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Son created all things,
sustains all things,
and makes all things new.

Truly God,
He became truly man,
two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary
and lived among us.
Crucified, dead, and buried,
He rose on the third day,
ascended to heaven,
and will come again
in glory and judgment.

For us,
He kept the Law,
atoned for sin,
and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags
and gave us
His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King,
building His church,
interceding for us,
and reigning over all things.
Jesus Christ is Lord;
we praise His holy Name forever.

Amen.

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION OF SINS

ALL

HYMN OF ADORATION

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God; glory in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Tr. Frederick Oakeley.
1841, Public Domain*

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Haggai 2:1-9 (ESV)

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.

¹ In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet: ² "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ³ Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? ⁴ Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, ⁵ according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. ⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. ⁹ The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts."

"The Glory"



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



HYMN OF PEACE

Silent Night, Holy Night

*Joseph Mohr, Franz Xaver Gruber.
1818, Public Domain*

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluias to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!



HYMN OF REJOICING

Joy To The World

*Isaac Watts, George Frideric Handel.
1719, Public Domain*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, and wonders of His love

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.

TEACHING ELDERS

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WIFI PASSWORD

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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!