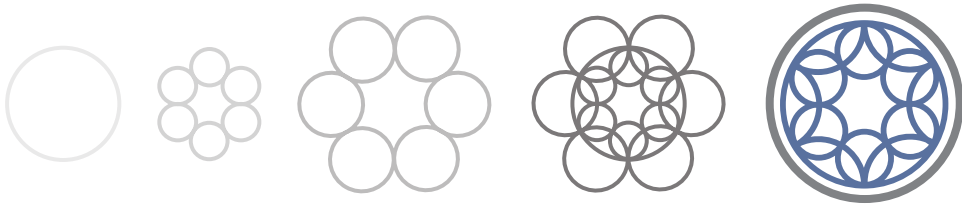




NEW CITY
presbyterian church

DECEMBER 18, 2022 - 4th 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 our city.

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 Ruling Elders

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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

From Philipians 4:4-7

LEADER

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

CONGREGATION

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GATHERING HYMN

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

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

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"*

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.

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 CANDLES LIGHTING

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, Matthew 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



PROFESSION OF FAITH

From Isaiah 54:10

LEADER

How does the Word of God portray the peace He offers to those on whom He has compassion?

CONGREGATION

For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but His steadfast love shall not depart from us,
and His covenant of peace shall not be removed,"
says the LORD, who has compassion on us.

ALL

Amen.

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.

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

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your 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. 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.

MINISTER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Isaiah 53:5

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

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.

ALL

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

He Who Is Mighty

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

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



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!

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.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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.



FOR TEXT & ONLINE GIVING

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

Give online through Church Center, at newcitypc.churchcenter.com/giving or by scanning the QR code.



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

Praise God Who Promised Long Ago

*Javier Contesse.
2019, Public Domain.*

Elder Jeff Ammons



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.

Luke 1:57-80 (ESV)

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zechariah's Prophecy

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has visited and redeemed his people

⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,

might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people

in the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Our God is Faithful to Keep His Promises

Parents wanting to have their children alongside them during communion and for the remainder of the service, may now pick them up from their Kids' Bible Time classes.



CHILDREN'S PICK-UP (NOT REQUIRED)

NEW CITY ADVENT CHOIR

First Noel & Pachelbel's Canon

Lara de Wit, Taylor Davis.
©2017, Lara de Wit, Taylor Davis Music



SENDING HYMN

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Joshua Moore, Sandra McCracken, Javier Contesse.
© 2015, Drink Your Tea Music
CCLI #7041364

In the dark of night before the dawn
You came, our souls to save
For the promised Savior is our God;
Our Lord, the Christ, Emmanuel!

*We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful One
In our joys and sorrows, as we wait
Bind us together bring shalom

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.

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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.



SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are New City's main avenue for cultivating relationships in Christ, and experiencing the deepest blessings of what it means to be in community. For more information scan QR code or visit: newcitypc.org/smallgroups



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!

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WIFI PASSWORD

NewCity2022!

Visit our website at:

NEWCITYPC.ORG