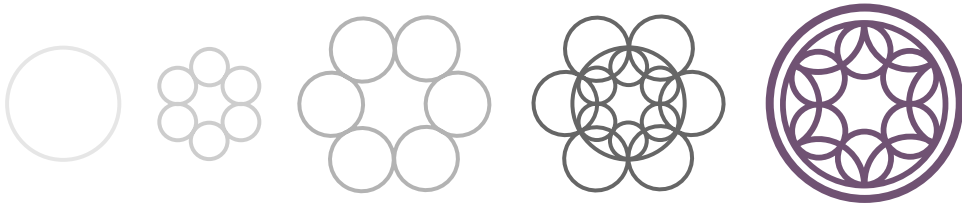




NEW CITY
presbyterian church

DECEMBER 12, 2021 – 3RD 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.

As the Senior Pastor of New City, it is my privilege to welcome you and to invite you to be astonished, together with us, by the splendor and grace of God.



Rev. Ryan McVicar

NEW CITY VISION & VALUES

*To be people in awe of God, made new by the gospel,
for the sake of people throughout our city, the nations,
and the generations to come.*

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

WORSHIP LEADER Rejoice in the Lord always.
CONGREGATION *I will say it again: Rejoice!*
WORSHIP LEADER Let your gentleness be evident to all.
CONGREGATION *The Lord is near*

From Philippians 4:4-5

GATHERING HYMN

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love—Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Gloria, in excelsis deo!
Gloria, in excelsis deo!

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold—a King is born today, incense—God is with us,
Myrrh—His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious mystery!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

Joy Has Dawned

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend.
© 2004, Thankyou Music
CCLI #4408246

The Advent Candles tradition points to the arrival of the "Light of the World," Jesus Christ. Each week of Advent a candle is lit until we celebrate the arrival of Jesus by lighting the center candle on Christmas Eve.



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

3rd Week of Advent: Joy

CHRISTMAS HYMN

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

*Anonymous.
18c. English Carol, Public Domain*

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name,

"Fear not, then," said the angel,
"let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might."

The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding,
in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway,
the Son of God to find.

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CHILDREN’S DISMISSAL

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 that we can follow-up with you.



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.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

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.





DOXOLOGY

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.

Praise God Who Promised Long Ago

*Javier Contesse.
2020, Public Domain*



PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

Q. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: First, how great my sin and misery are; Second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; Third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

Heidelberg Catechism, Q.2



PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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

Isaiah 11:1-9, 12 (ESV)

11¹ 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.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

12¹ You will say in that day:

"I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

² "Behold, God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Joy In Times Of Sadness

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.**

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.

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

CALL TO REPENTANCE

ALL

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 Him.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting Father, in Christ You have done great things—our hearts are filled with joy! By Your power You lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us into Your Kingdom. But we confess that we often try to replace Your gift of salvation with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us our foolishness! Help us to focus on Your grace and live grateful lives in return. For Jesus sake alone, Amen.

MINISTER

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.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

From Zepheniah 3:14-17

Sing aloud, O Israel
Rejoice and exult with all your heart
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;

MINISTER

All who can examine themselves regarding their faith and participation in Christ, are invited to participate in the Lord's Table.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

MINISTER

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

During this Advent season, our New City Choir will be ushering us to the Table with songs and hymns of praise.

HYMN AT THE TABLE NEW CITY CHOIR

MINISTER

The Words of Institution echo Jesus' words at the Last Supper, now inviting us to partake of the Bread and Wine in remembrance of Him.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PARTAKING OF THE BREAD & WINE



SENDING HYMN

Joy To The World

Isaac Watts.

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

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

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

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

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

BENEDICTION

BUILDING MAP

3

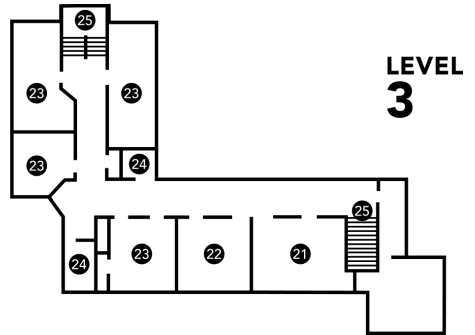
- 21 CONFERENCE ROOM
- 22 GRIFFIN WORKSPACE
- 23 STAFF OFFICES
- 24 RESTROOMS
- 25 STAIRS

2

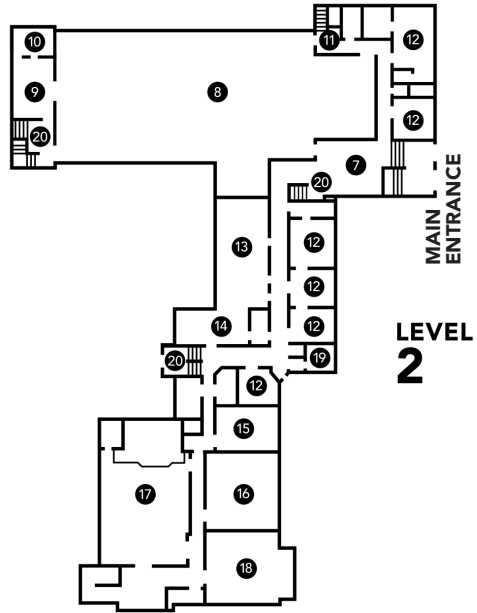
- 7 WELCOME AREA
- 8 SANCTUARY
- 9 PINECREST LOBBY
- 10 CRYROOM
- ♿ 11 ELEVATOR
- 12 NURSERY
- 13 FIREPLACE ROOM
- 14 GARDEN ROOM
- 15 NC STUDENTS CAFE
- 16 NC STUDENTS REC ROOM
- 17 CHAPEL
- 18 DRAYTON ROOM
- ♿ 19 RESTROOMS
- 20 STAIRS

1

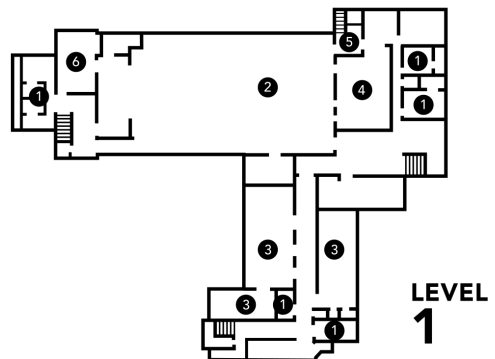
- 1 RESTROOMS
- 2 GATHERING PLACE
- 3 NC KIDS
- 4 KITCHEN
- 5 ELEVATOR
- 6 BACKSTAGE ROOM



LEVEL 3



LEVEL 2



LEVEL 1

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WIFI PASSWORD

NewCity2022!

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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

Our new Small Group season has launched with several groups already meeting, and many new groups to explore. 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!

