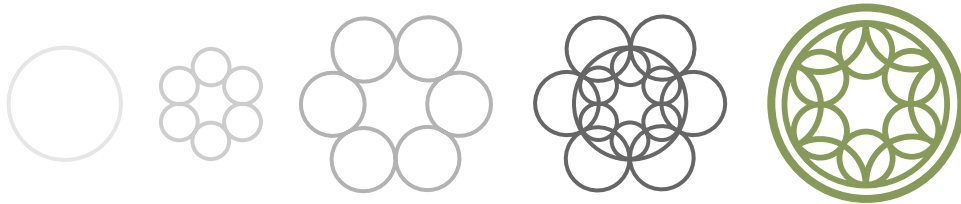


NEWCITY
presbyterian church

JULY 4, 2021

Sermon cover art and sermon series graphics
by New City member, Jay Holladay

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

GATHERING HYMN

Come, people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in

*Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice*

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night
Come, those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight
For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace

Come, young and old from every land
Men and women of the faith
Come, those with full or empty hands
Find the riches of His grace
Over all the world, His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age
"Our God is all in all."

Come People Of The Risen King

*Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.
© 2007, ThankYou Music
CCLI #5232617*

The Prayer of Adoration
is a praiseful pondering
of the attributes and
works of God, intended
to draw our hearts closer
to Him, in awe.



SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

HYMN OF HOPE

O God Our Help In Ages Past

*Isaac Watts
1719, Public Domain
CCLI #43152*

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

Under the shadow of Your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure.
Sufficient is Your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting You are God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away.
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

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.



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.



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

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

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION



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.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. ¹⁷ I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. ¹⁸ I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. ¹⁹ For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. ²⁰ All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. ²¹ Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? ²² So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

4 ¹ Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. ² And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. ³ But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

⁴ Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

⁵ The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

⁶ Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.

⁷ Again, I saw vanity under the sun: ⁸ one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

¹³ Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice. ¹⁴ For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. ¹⁵ I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place. ¹⁶ There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

PREACHER
ALL

The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the Word of our God stands forever.



Sermon Series: Life Under The Sun
Seeing Vanity, Searching for Better

Scott Wyatt

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 prepackaged cup containing wine and a wafer (gluten-free 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.

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.

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.

MINISTER

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

CALL TO REPENTANCE

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, our God, we come to you tired of battling with temptation, and weakened by our sin. We acknowledge our struggle with self-centeredness, which only leads us to a pursuit of treasures, pleasures, and alienation from others around us. But instead, we pray You move us to live truly fulfilling lives that enjoy and minister the spoil our King Jesus has attained for us. Help us to see where we are at fault, help us to quickly repent and seek restoration, and change our hearts for the glory of the One who makes this possible, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

1 John 1:1-2

¹[...] I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION



HYMN AT THE TABLE

Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,
Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come!
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee!
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee!

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come!
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee!
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storm and into Thy calm,
Out of distress to jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee!

Jesus I Come (Out Of My Bondage)

*William T Sleeper.
1887, Public Domain
CCLI #4855026*

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come!
Into the joy and pleasure, Thine own,
Jesus, I come to Thee!
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the flock Thy love doth enfold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee!

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

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land
Where my possessions lie

All o'er those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day
There God the Son forever reigns
And scatters night away

*I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the Promised Land
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the Promised Land*

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

*Samuel Stennett.
1787, Public Domain
CCLI #78859*

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death
Are felt and feared no more

When shall I reach that happy place
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face
And in His bosom rest?

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

WORSHIP ON THE LAWN

Last year, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, our inability to meet at our previous place of worship, and the renovations taking place in our recently acquired building, we hosted our worship services on our property's front lawn. We loved gathering in the shade of our trees, in a fresh and worshipful environment, where God was magnified and we were nurtured. This Summer, *Worship On The Lawn* is back.

Our *Worship On The Lawn* season will run June 6th through September 5th, with one worship service starting at 10am. Bring your own lawn chair, picnic blankets, and everything you need to stay comfortable. In case of inclement weather forecast, we will worship in our Sanctuary. Our main avenues for communicating changes are **New City Texts**, and **New City News**. You can sign-up for both of these at newcitypc.org/subscribe.

CONTACT INFO

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Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube under the **newcitypc** handle.

Visit our website at:
NEWCITYPC.ORG

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VISITING US?

Thank you for being part of our service today! We would love to get to know you and invite you into deeper community with us. Please scan this QR code and fill out a simple form 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!

HOW TO SCAN QR CODES?

QR Codes allow smartphone users to quickly access a web link without having to type in a URL.

For most iPhone users, this technology is integrated into your camera app. Simply hover over the QR code using your camera app and wait for a pop-up notification that will open your web browser for you.

For older iPhone models and Android phones, download the *Quick Scan* app.