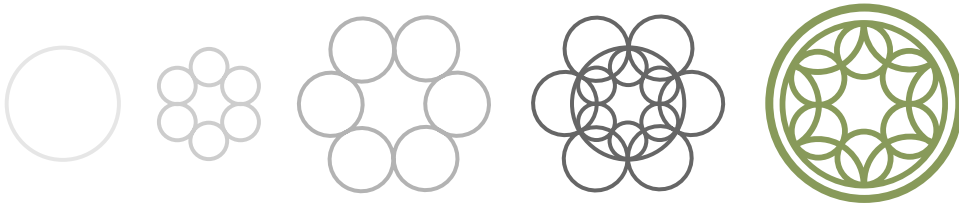




JULY 25, 2021

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*Walter Smith.
1867, Public Domain
CCLI #1590109*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 5:13-17

¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

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.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise To The Lord The Almighty

*Joachim Neander, Tr. Catherine Winkworth
1680/1863, Public Domain
CCLI #2648022*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration; Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how all your longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth? Granted in what He ordaineth.

*Praise Him, Praise Him;
O my soul praise Him. (Praise Christ our King!)*

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee; If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him; Gladly forever adore Him.

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

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.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14 (ESV)

¹ A good name is better than precious ointment,
and the day of death than the day of birth.

² It is better to go to the house of mourning
than to go to the house of feasting,
for this is the end of all mankind,
and the living will lay it to heart.

³ Sorrow is better than laughter,
for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,
but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

⁵ It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise
than to hear the song of fools.

⁶ For as the crackling of thorns under a pot,
so is the laughter of the fools;
this also is vanity.

⁷ Surely oppression drives the wise into madness,
and a bribe corrupts the heart.

⁸ Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

⁹ Be not quick in your spirit to become angry,
for anger lodges in the heart of fools.

¹⁰ Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?"
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

¹¹ Wisdom is good with an inheritance,
an advantage to those who see the sun.

¹² For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money,
and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

¹³ Consider the work of God:
who can make straight what he has made crooked?

¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

PREACHER
ALL

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



Sermon Series: Life Under The Sun

Javier Contesse

The Better Ways of the Wise

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

Merciful God, to know you is the fulfillment of our deepest longings and the satisfaction of our desires. Yet foolishly we have sought our pleasures elsewhere. We have put the seeking of idols, which are bound to leave us insecure and empty, above seeking you. We have failed to love you with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us. Cleanse us. Renew our hearts and lead us into newness of life for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Proverbs 28:13

¹³Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION



HYMN AT THE TABLE

Behold The Lamb Of God

Andrew Peterson, Laura Story.
© 2005, New Spring and Gleaning Publishing
CCLI #4618782

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away our sin
Behold the Lamb of God, the life and light of men
Behold the Lamb of God, who died and rose again
Behold the Lamb of God who comes to take away our sin

*Broken hearts; behold our broken hearts
Fallen far; we need you
Behold the sin of man*

*Son of God, Emmanuel
Son of man, we praise you
Behold the Lamb; the hope of man
Behold the Lamb*

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

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hellbound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

*Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker.
© 2012, Bleecker Publishing
CCLI #7026028*

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could ever restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

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.

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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.