

NEW CITY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A GATHERED SERVICE  
OF WORSHIP**

MARCH 17, 2013

**Welcome to New City Presbyterian Church.** We're delighted that you've joined us this morning for our gathered service of worship. Our community 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 and the central message of the Bible to be 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 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 Presbyterian Church exists to be a community rooted in truth, real in conversation and committed to renewing our lives and our city.

As the Pastor at New City, it is my privilege to extend to you an invitation to come be part of the New City Church community and to be astonished, together with us, by the splendor and grace of God.

- Ryan McVicar

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
to whoever will come - this church opens wide her doors  
and offers you welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*



# ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD



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## REFLECTION & SILENT PREPARATION

*“As a bride adorned for her husband goes forth of her bedchamber unto the marriage, so shall the saints go forth of their graves, unto the marriage of the Lamb.”*

**Thomas Boston**

*“The Christian has the assurance which no heir in temporal things can ever have. He knows with absolute certainty that the inheritance will not merely be kept for him, but that he will be kept for it.”*

**Geerhardus Vos**

*“You don’t realize Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.”*

**Timothy Keller**

*“If God really does intend to redeem rather than reject his created world...we are faced with the question: what might it look like to celebrate that redemption, that healing and transformation, in the present, and thereby appropriately to anticipate God’s final intention?”*

**Tom Wright**

# PASTOR'S WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## HYMN OF ADORATION

“BEHOLD OUR GOD”

*Who has held the oceans in His hand?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice  
All creation rises to rejoice*

**CHORUS** *Behold our God seated on His throne  
Come let us adore Him  
Behold our King, nothing can compare  
Come let us adore Him!*

*Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the One  
Who knows all things?  
Who can fathom  
All His wondrous deeds?*

*Who has felt the nails upon His hands  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign*

*You will reign forever!  
Let Your glory fill the earth*

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

TAKEN FROM PSALM 33

“The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.”

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL** Most merciful God whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. Amen

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**MINISTER** God’s Word declares that Jesus is all-sufficient to forgive all your sin and meet all your needs. For those who have sinned: Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. For those who hunger, Jesus is the bread of life, and whoever comes to him will not hunger. For those who thirst, Jesus invites you to come to Him and drink till rivers of living water flow out of your heart. For those who walk in darkness, Jesus is the light of the world who gives the light of life. For those sobered by death, Jesus is the resurrection and the life; even though you die, yet you shall live. Rejoice and be glad!

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*Violet Elizabeth Meh Assenmacher, born November, 2 2012, daughter of Scott and Lauren Assenmacher*

# SONG OF JOY

“JESUS, THANK YOU” 

*The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend  
The agonies of Calvary  
You the perfect holy One crushed Your Son  
Drank the bitter cup reserved for me*

**CHORUS** *Your blood has washed away my sin  
Jesus, thank You  
The Father's wrath completely satisfied  
Jesus, thank You  
Once Your enemy now seated at Your table  
Jesus, thank You*

*By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near  
Your enemy You've made Your friend  
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace  
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end*

*Lover of my soul, I want to live for You (repeat)*

## BRINGING GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

‘THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS RICH AND FREE’

*The love of Christ is rich and free;  
Fixed on His own eternally;  
Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove;  
Long as He lives, His own He'll love.*

*Love has redeemed His sheep with blood;  
And love will bring them safe to God;  
Love calls them all from death to life;  
And love will finish all their strife.*

*Chorus: Love cannot from its post withdraw;  
Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law,  
Can turn the Surety's heart away;  
He'll love His own to endless day.*


*At death, beyond the grave, He'll love;  
In endless bliss, His own shall prove  
The blazing glory of that love  
Which never could from them remove*

 Please stand

# RESPONDING WITH GRATITUDE

“DOXOLOGY”

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

*Amen.* 

## SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN  
11:1-53, 12:9-11

“Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it he said, “It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come

to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” When



*K4-3rd grade are welcome to  
join the children in the Kids City  
room for Children's Worship*

she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted

up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. The chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus."

MINISTER "The grass withers, the flowers fade."

**ALL "But the word of our God stands forever."**



# THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**SERIES:** Who is Jesus and what do we do with him?

**SERMON:** "THE PROBLEM OF EVIL & THE PROMISE OF LIFE"

John 11: 20-53

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*Notes and Thoughts for New City Group Discussions About the Sunday Sermon*

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**PASTORAL PRAYER**

# CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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 word of encouragement. If you are not a Christian, we encourage you to spend this time reflecting on the prayers printed below in the hopes that a relationship with Jesus and membership in His Church may be considered.

*We will be coming forward to participate in Communion. Clear cups (located on the perimeter of the tray) contain grape juice. Red cups (interior of tray) contain wine.*

Jesus is truly and spiritually present and stands ready to feed you. Come hungry. Come thirsty. Come ready to be filled.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Belgic Confession, Article XIII*

MINISTER What comfort does the truth that God is intimately involved in what happens in our world give us?

**ALL This truth gives us unspeakable comfort since it shows us that nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father. He watches over us with fatherly care, keeping all creatures so under His power that not one of the hairs on our heads (for they are all numbered), nor a sparrow can fall to the ground without the will of our Father, in whom we do entirely trust.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION COMMUNION PRAYERS

### *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 this 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, therefore, O Lord, the grace to commune now with Christ by faith, that I may evermore live in him and he in me. Amen.

*Please let an usher know if it is difficult for you to come forward.*

*We would be happy to serve you at your seat.*

# COMMUNION SONG

## “ROCK OF AGES”

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy wounded side which flowed  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Save from wrath and make me pure*

*Not the labors of my hands,  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow  
All for sin could not atone,  
Thou must save, and Thou alone*

*Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to the cross I cling  
Naked come to Thee for dress,  
Helpless look to Thee for grace  
Foul I to the fountain fly,  
Wash me Savior, or I die*

*While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eyes shall close in death  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee*

## **HYMN OF HOPE**

“MIGHTY TO SAVE” 

*Everyone needs compassion a Love that's never failing  
Let mercy fall on me  
Everyone needs forgiveness the kindness of a savior  
The hope of nations*

**CHORUS** *Savior, he can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever, author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave*

*So take me as you find me all my fears abandoned  
And fill my life again  
I give my life to follow everything I believe in  
Now I surrender (I surrender)*

## **BENEDICTION & THE CHILDREN'S GATHERING**

*Shine your light and let the whole world see  
Singing, for the glory of the risen king, Jesus*

 *Please stand*

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## NEW CITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Easter** Easter is almost here! Come celebrate New City's first Easter with us on March 31st at 10:30 am. We will enjoy Easter Brunch together, as well as an Easter-egg Hunt and bounce house for the kids immediately following the service.

**Easter Week** Don't miss out on the New City Easter week plans:  
*Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Easter week:* Sign up to join us for a Seder meal on one of these nights (please check the box on pg 14 as seating is limited).

*Friday:* Good Friday evening service in the Royal Oak Middle School Auditorium. 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

**New City Groups** New City is committed to deep and transformational community life and the backbone of our community life is found in New City Groups. These regional small groups (8-12 people) serve as our primary vehicle for spiritual formation, study, prayer, discipleship and mission. They are essential for keeping the church small enough for people to connect relationally between Sundays and local enough for people to exercise their gifts and passions for needs in our neighborhoods and networks. Find more information at the Welcome Table.

Current New City Groups:

Every other Wednesday / 7pm

Contact: [ryan@newcitypc.org](mailto:ryan@newcitypc.org)

Every other Sunday / 5pm

Contact: [krieg3family@msn.com](mailto:krieg3family@msn.com)

Every other Sunday / 5pm

Contact: [meredithammons@hotmail.com](mailto:meredithammons@hotmail.com) or [kacairo1@msn.com](mailto:kacairo1@msn.com)

**Envelopes and Information** Envelopes for giving are placed in the back of the sanctuary and can be picked up at anytime for your convenience. You can also place contact information (found on the next page), prayer requests or requests for information about New City in the offering plate or in the dropbox located in the back.

**Baptism** This morning we have the honor of celebrating Violet Assenmacher's baptism. Violet is the daughter of Scott and Lauren Assenmacher.

**Facebook** "Like" us on Facebook to receive news, updates and pictures.  
[www.facebook.com/newcitypc](http://www.facebook.com/newcitypc)

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## NEW CITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Nursery and Children's Ministry** Our Children's Ministry Director, Mandi Krieg, would love to tell you more about our vision for children's ministry at New City and ways that you might serve. If you are interested to learn more about this ministry, please contact Mandi at [kids@newcitypc.org](mailto:kids@newcitypc.org)

**Pastor's Dessert** Questions about New City? Curious about who we are? All are invited to Pastor McVicar's home on the first Thursday of every month (7PM) to enjoy dessert and to allow time for questions about the vision, values and beliefs of New City Presbyterian Church. If planning to attend, please check the box below and place in the offering plate or dropbox at the back of the Auditorium. We look forward to spending time with you!

**Questions** Following every worship service, Pastor McVicar will meet with all who are interested to ask questions about the sermon or the church. Gather in the front rows (stage right).

**Bibles** If you don't have a Bible, feel free to grab a bible from the back of the auditorium. We invite you to keep it if you do not own a Bible.

**Books and Resources** Check out our book table in the welcome area to discover many of our favorite books that will be helpful to those who are exploring the Christian Faith, as well as books that will be helpful to those

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## VISITOR AND EVENT INFORMATION

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- Seder Dinner Sign Up - Monday, March 25. How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- Seder Dinner Sign Up - Tuesday, March 26. How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- Seder Dinner Sign Up - Wednesday, March 27. How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- I have questions about the Bible or questions about becoming a Christian and would like to discuss these questions with someone.
- I would like to ask the New City Prayer Team to pray for:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT**

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