



NEW CITY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A GATHERED SERVICE  
OF WORSHIP**

AUGUST 18, 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



## REFLECTION & SILENT PREPARATION

*You are invited to pray and reflect on the following prayer as you prepare for worship.*

Most loving Father, Whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of You, and to cast all our care on You Who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of Your love which is immortal, and which You have revealed to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

If we are deeply moved by the sight of his love for us, it detaches our hearts from other would-be saviors. We stop trying to redeem ourselves through our pursuits and relationships, because we are already redeemed. We stop trying to make others into saviors, because we have a Savior.

**Tim Keller**

The story of paradise lost becoming paradise regained is the story of God's grace bringing us from alienation from him to membership in his family. God's grace restores us to what Adam lost for us — sonship to the God who made us, loves us, and provides for us in every detail in life.

**Sinclair Ferguson**

## PASTOR'S WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## HYMN OF PRAISE

“ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING”

*All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam*

*O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong  
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice  
Ye lights of evening find a voice*

*Let all things their Creator bless  
And worship Him in humbleness  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One*

## READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 18

I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of

praise, As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?

 Please stand

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Taken from Jeremiah 2

MINISTER “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of me,” declares the Lord. Do not run until your feet are bare and your throat is dry. But you said, ‘It’s no use! I love foreign gods, and I must go after them.’ They have turned their backs to me and not their faces; yet when they are in trouble, they say, ‘Come and save us!’ Why do my people say, ‘We are free to roam; we will come to you no more’? Does a young woman forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number.

**ALL Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we confess that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways. Forgive us, we pray, most merciful Father. Free us from our sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

MINISTER If you, LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. The Lord will redeem his people from all of their sins.

## SONG OF REDEMPTION

“BEAUTIFUL, SCANDALOUS NIGHT” 

*Go on up to the mountain of mercy  
To the crimson perpetual tide  
Kneel down on the shore Be thirsty no more  
Go under and be purified*

*Follow Christ to the holy mountain  
Sinner sorry and wrecked by the fall  
Cleanse your heart and your soul In the fountain that  
flows  
For you and for me and for all*

*At the wonderful tragic mysterious tree  
On that beautiful scandalous night You and me  
Were atoned by His blood  
And forever washed white  
On that beautiful scandalous night*

*On the hillside you will be delivered  
At the foot of the cross justified  
And your spirit restored  
By the river that pours  
From our blessed Savior's side*

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

 Please stand

# BRINGING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

"10,000 REASONS"

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul*

*Worship His holy name*

*Sing like never before, O my soul*

*I'll worship Your holy name*

*The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning*

*It's time to sing Your song again*

*Whatever may pass*

*And whatever lies before me*

*Let me be singing when the evening comes*

*You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger*

*Your name is great, and Your heart is kind*

*For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing*

*Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find*

*And on that day when my strength is failing*

*The end draws near, and my time has come*

*Still my soul will sing Your praise unending*

*Ten thousand years and then forevermore*

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

ACTS  
17:16-34

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout

persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the

resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,<sup>3</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allot-

ted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring." Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

MINISTER "All people are like grass, and all their beauty is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades,"

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

# **THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

***SERIES:*** The Acts of Jesus in and through His church

***SERMON:*** "THE GOD WE CAN KNOW" PART I

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

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS YOU CAN PRAY 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 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.

## COMMUNION SONG

“HOW DEEP THE FATHER’S LOVE FOR US”

*How deep the Father’s love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He would give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory*

*Behold the Man upon a cross  
My guilt upon His shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished*

*I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no powr’s, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom*

# HYMN OF DEPARTURE

“IN CHRIST ALONE” 

*In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease!  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

*In Christ alone! - who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This Gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid:  
Here in the death of Christ I live*

*There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

## BENEDICTION & THE CHILDREN'S GATHERING

*No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till he returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!*

 Please stand

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## NEW CITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Save The Date: “From Embers To A Flame” Conference** On Friday evening, September 20th, New City will host our very own, first-annual fall conference. The theme for this year’s New City Christian Life Conference is “From Embers To A Flame.” We are honored to have Harry Reeder (Sr. Pastor of Briarwood Church in Birmingham, AL) join us as the conference speaker. Invite your friends and plan on joining us for this exciting opportunity. More details to come.

**Moms and Kids Summer Fun** This week, Tuesday, August 20 - Raspberry picking at Makeilski Berry Farm 7130 Platt Rd., Ypsilanti 48197. Meet at the farm at 11am and bring a sac lunch. Wednesday, August 28 - Troy Aquatic Center 11am, weather permitting. If you would like to participate in one of these events or have questions, please contact Megan McVicar at [mpmcivicar@gmail.com](mailto:mpmcivicar@gmail.com) / 586-365-8307 or Meredith Ammons at [meredithammons@hotmail.com](mailto:meredithammons@hotmail.com)

**Summer 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 Christian 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.

CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?: Ever wondered why you can trust the Bible? Why you can believe it? Why you can depend on it? Here is your chance to get answers to your key, big questions through weekly readings and group discussion. *For six Sunday evenings throughout August and September*, we will be reading and discussing “Can I Trust the Bible?” by R.C. Sproul. The book can either be downloaded for free via Kindle Reader or a hard copy purchased for \$5 each.

*To join, ask questions or get details contact Keith Wissman at [kewissman@gmail.com](mailto:kewissman@gmail.com) / 248-854-2376.*

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE: All are invited to discuss the significance of understanding the good news of God’s grace and applying the gospel to every area of our lives. *We will meet every Tuesday at 7pm* at Starr-Jaycee Park on 13 Mile Rd. in Royal Oak (between Crooks and Main)

*Contact: Cameron Francis at 586-663-0236 / [cameronfrancis313@gmail.com](mailto:cameronfrancis313@gmail.com) or Shelby Reynolds at 586-5691270 / [hello.shelbyreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:hello.shelbyreynolds@gmail.com)*

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## NEW CITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Membership** Many have inquired about membership at New City. Receiving members into New City is a significant and exciting step in the life of our church! We're excited to announce the following dates for classes that will allow you to explore New City's beliefs, vision and values and to learn more about membership at New City. Upon participating in one of the classes (pick the date that works best for you!) and a meeting with the pastor to hear your profession of faith in Jesus Christ, you will be invited to take the vows of membership during one of our worship services (dates listed below). To learn more, please e-mail Pastor McVicar (ryan@newcitypc.org).

"The New City Tour" Class (TONIGHT!): Sundays (August 18th and September 8th) from 4pm-6pm at the Royal Oak Middle School. We will conclude with a pizza dinner and Q and A session with the New City pastor beginning at 6pm. (If unable to secure child-care at home, nursery provided for kids up to age 4)

Membership Sundays: For those who wish to become members upon completing the classes and meeting with the pastor, they will be asked to stand before the congregation to be received on one of the following two Sundays: Sunday, September 15th and Sunday, September 22nd.

**The Riddell Mission** Bridge and Hilary Riddell are preparing to move to South Africa to serve as Assistant Village Managers at an orphanage called Lily of the Valley; a children's village that cares for approximately 120 children, infants through 19 years of age, who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. If you are interested in hearing more about the work God is doing in South Africa and the call He has placed on Bridge and Hilary's hearts. They will give a short presentation following the service on August 25th. For more information, please visit: [bridgeandhilary.com](http://bridgeandhilary.com)

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## VISITOR AND EVENT INFORMATION

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Membership at New City? I would like to learn more.
- I would like more information about the summer New City Groups
- Women's Summer Book Discussion and Fellowship
- I have questions about the Bible or questions about becoming a Christian and would like to discuss these questions with someone.
- I am interested in finding ways to serve.

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**CONTACT**

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