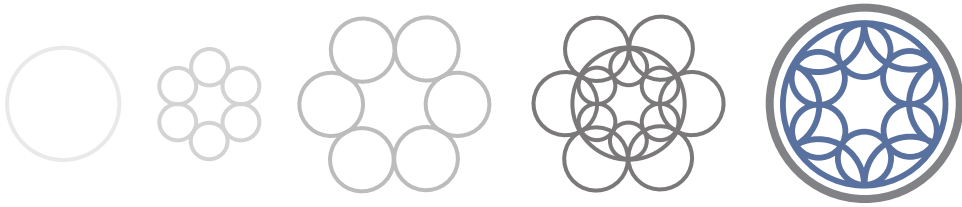


NEW CITY
presbyterian church

DECEMBER 3, 2023 – FIRST 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 in that of those around us.

It is our privilege to welcome you and to invite you to be astonished, together with us, by the splendor and grace of God.

New City Session

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NEW CITY VISION & VALUES

*To be a church in awe of God,
made new by the gospel, for the sake of all people.*

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

Isaiah 40:3-5

³ A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."



ALL

GATHERING HYMN

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Rowland Hugh Prichard, Charles Wesley.
1744, Public Domain

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear Desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Come Thou Long-Expected King

Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born the Lord of all

The Advent wreath originated as a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his 'advent' (from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'arrival'). One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit the second Sunday, etc. The final candle—the Christ candle—is lit on Christmas Day, symbolizing the birth of Jesus Christ; the arrival of the light of the world.

ADVENT LITURGY

SCRIPTURE READING – LUKE 1:67-79

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE

ADVENT LITANY

LEADER: As we light the first Advent candle, let us embrace the hope promised in Malachi, a sun of righteousness rising with healing in His wings.

CONGREGATION: In the words of Zechariah, we see the dawn of salvation breaking upon us.

LEADER: God's merciful light penetrates our darkness, as a lamp unto our feet, guiding our steps in the way of peace.

CONGREGATION: With hope in our hearts, we await the promised Messiah, who brings redemption to the lost.

LEADER: May this light of hope shine in our hearts, reminding us of God's faithful promises.

ALL: Together, we journey towards the coming of Christ, our hope and our salvation.

PRAYER

CHRISTMAS HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Frederick Oakeley.

1841, Public Domain

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God; glory in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

/// We give you all the glory ///
Christ the Lord

/// We'll praise your name forever ///
Christ the Lord

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 we can follow-up with you.



TITHES & OFFERINGS

FOR TEXT & ONLINE GIVING

Text dollar amount (e.g.: \$50) to 843-21

Give online through Church Center 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.

CHOIR OFFERTORY

The Angel Gabriel
Arranged by John Leavitt.
19th Century Basque Carol

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he thou lowly maiden Mary,
"most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee.
Thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Elder Ken Reynolds

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

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Malachi 4:1-6 (ESV)

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

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.

SERMON SERIES

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Rev. Tommy Myrick

"The Sun"



SUNDAY, DEC 3

"The Sun"

Malachi 4:1-6

SUNDAY, DEC 10

"The Fountain"

Zechariah 13:1-2

SUNDAY, DEC 17

"The King"

Psalm 24:7-10

SUNDAY, DEC 24

"The Shepherd"

Micah 5:1-4

5PM CHRISTMAS EVE

"The Glory"

Haggai 2:1-9

SUNDAY, DEC 31

"The Holy"

Isaiah 41:14-16



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!

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 our merciful God.

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 in Christ.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God Who Promised Long Ago
© 2019, Javier Contesse.

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.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, in Your light, we see the shadows of our own iniquity. We confess we have walked in paths of selfishness and pride, ignoring Your call to righteousness. We have neglected Your command to prepare our own hearts for Your abode, and rather we find ourselves consumed by our own desires, our hearts turned against You, and also against those we claim to love. Forgive us, O Lord, for settling for darkness, and not pursuing the sense of hope You have placed in each our hearts, which only finds fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ, your beloved Son. In Your mercy, renew our hearts, that we may embrace Christ, and live as heralds of His unfailing hope. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Titus 3:4-5

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

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.**

MINISTER

All who can examine themselves regarding their faith and participation in Christ, are invited to commune with Him at the Lord’s Table.

INVITATION & FENCING OF THE TABLE

MINISTER

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.

ALL

HYMN AT THE TABLE

Remembrance (The Communion Song)

Matt Maher, Matt Redman.

© 2009, sixsteps Music

CCLI #5484616

Oh, how could it be that my God would welcome me into this mystery?
Say, "take this bread, take this wine," now the simple made divine,
For any to receive

*By Your mercy we come to Your table
By Your grace You are making us faithful*

*Lord, we remember You
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship You
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to Your invitation
We remember You*

See His body, His blood, know that He has overcome every trial we will face
None too lost to be saved, none too broken or ashamed,
All are welcome in this place

Dying, You destroyed our death
Rising, You restored our life
Lord Jesus, come in glory
Lord Jesus, come in glory

MINISTER

The Words of Institution echo Jesus' words at the Last Supper, which now invite us to partake of the bread and wine in remembrance of Him.



ALL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PARTAKING OF THE BREAD & WINE

SENDING HYMN

Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest Heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time, behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Christ Is Born)

Charles Wesley, George Whitefield.
1739, Public Domain

*Christ is born (Christ is born)
Glory to the Prince of Peace
Christ is born (Christ is born)
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Christ is born to redeem his own
The Savior Christ is born*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild, He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

BENEDICTION

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund Contributions as of 11/29/23	\$ 662,626
General Fund 2023 Revised Annual Budget	\$ 726,593
Mortgage Balance as of 11/29/23	\$ 284,760

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CCLI LICENSE

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WIFI PASSWORD

NewCity2022!

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NEWCITYPC.ORG

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tex **newcitytexts** to 97-000.

Find us on YouTube

under the **@newcitypc** handle.



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.



CHURCH CENTER

Church Center is our hub for all things New City. From knowing what's happening next, to signing up for an event or small group, to requesting baptism or prayer, to online giving, all your next steps for getting involved at New City are there at **newcitypc.churchcenter.com**



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!