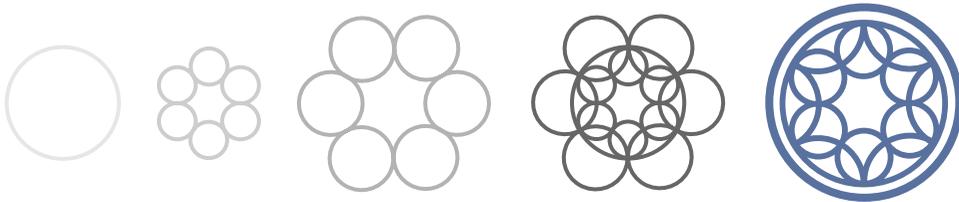




NEW CITY
presbyterian church

DECEMBER 20, 2020 - FOURTH 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 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

LITURGY FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

As we gather to worship this morning, take a moment to reflect on this important historical event as a way to prepare for an encounter with the living God.

WORD ON WORSHIP

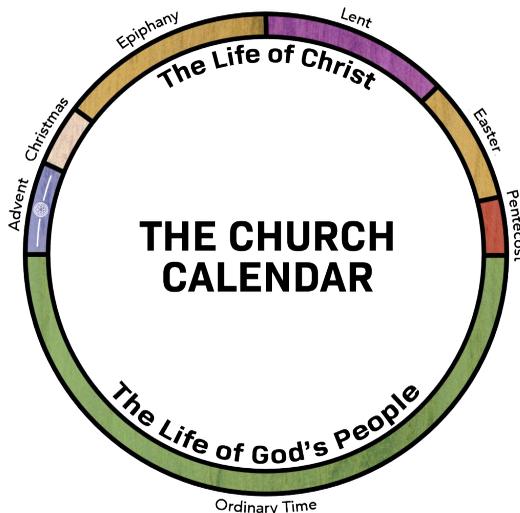
Advent

Formed from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival,” Advent is the traditional celebration of the first advent of Jesus in humility and the anxious awaiting of His second advent in glory!

This season is a time for remembering and rejoicing, watching and waiting. The whole point of Advent is to spend these four coming weeks in preparation for Christmas instead of celebrating Christmas. It’s about stepping into the shoes of the Israelites, longing and crying out for the Messiah to come. It’s about reflecting on our sin and shortcomings and our need for a Savior. It’s about looking around at our broken world and hoping for the second coming of Jesus. And, once we get to Christmas Day, the celebration of Jesus’ birth becomes that much more spectacular and meaningful.

As we remember and enter this story, the coming of Jesus Christ, we deconstruct and deny the false stories that we find ourselves caught up in, especially those connected to our culture’s concept of Christmas. Instead, we reconstruct and embrace the true story of the

gospel in our lives, specifically the focuses and themes of Advent. We recognize the weight of sin personally, corporately and cosmically and why we need Jesus Christ, Immanuel, to dwell among us, restoring and reconciling creation back to the Father by the Spirit. Celebrating the Son of God coming as a gift, not to be served but to serve, we respond out of praise and gratitude, using this season to serve and to give to others.



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

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

*Charles Wesley, George Whitefield.
1739, Public Domain
CCLI #27738*

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."

The Advent Wreath tradition points to the arrival of the "Light of the World," Jesus Christ. Each week of Advent a candle is lit until we celebrate the arrival of Jesus by lighting the center candle on Christmas Eve.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CHRISTMAS HYMN

Joy Has Dawned
Keith Getty, Stuart Townend.
© 2004, Thankyou Music
CCLI #4408246

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love—Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

**Gloria, in excelsis deo!*
Gloria, in excelsis deo!

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold—a King is born today, incense—God is with us,
Myrrh—His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious mystery!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

**Latin for: "Glory to God in the highest!"*

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.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

How have you exchanged the deep and abiding joy of the Lord for the fleeting and fickle happiness of this world?

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, You showed the world Your splendor in the coming of Your Son; the mystery of God becoming man to make us Your children. Yet, we confess that instead of being worshipful, we are complacent; instead of being joyful, we are irritable; instead of being peaceful, we are anxious. In our unbelief, we have become impoverished with divided hearts and distracted minds. Have mercy upon us, O God, and forgive us for the sake of Emmanuel, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:10

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.



The word “doxology” comes from a Greek translation of the Old Testament word for worship. We respond to the gospel of God’s grace with a burst of praise!

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.

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TITHES & OFFERINGS

A dropbox is available in the Welcome Area for cash or check offerings.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Praise God Who Promised Long Ago

*Thomas Ken / Javier Contesse.
1551, Public Domain / 2020
CCLI #56204*

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.





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.

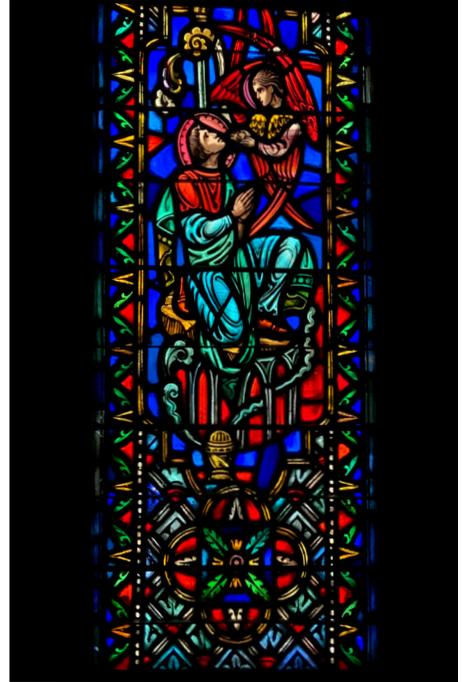
THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Isaiah 11:1-14, 12:1-5 (ESV)

11 ¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. [...] ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. ¹¹In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria,

from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. ¹²He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. ¹³The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. ¹⁴But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. [...]

12 ¹You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.



Joy

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.

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

MINISTER

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE



ALL

HYMN AT THE TABLE

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

*Anonymous
16th Century, Public Domain
CCLI #39441*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Fear not, then, said the angel, let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind
And went to Bethlehem straightway the Son of God to find
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy



SENDING HYMN

Joy To The World

*Isaac Watts. 1719,
Public Domain
CCLI #24016*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, and wonders of His love

BENEDICTION

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.

WELCOME HOME!

SOME HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

We are beyond thankful to gather with you to worship our Lord in our new house. To better facilitate our gathering, please observe the following housekeeping note:

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING:

The three building entrances open on Sundays will be the mains doors off of the Parking Lot, the southside entrance with elevator access, and the Sanctuary doors off of Pinecrest.

The doors leading into the Sanctuary from the Welcome Area will close after the opening song. To enter the Sanctuary after the opening song please make your way downstairs, through the Gathering Place, and up the stairs into the Sanctuary.

The nearest restrooms for use during the worship service are available on the First Level. During the worship service, please exit through the Pinecrest Lobby to use the restrooms.

Drinks are permitted in the Sanctuary during worship in your own personal drinkware with a lid (no disposable cups). Please clean-up any spills immediately following the worship service.

As part of our celebration, New City is giving away non-disposable drinkware for you to enjoy!

Following the worship service, everyone is invited to the Gathering Place to connect, converse, and enjoy hot drinks.

Hands-free water dispensers are available in the hallway outside of the Fireplace Room, and in the Kids' Ministry hallway.

PARENTS:

Nursery will be available for children 0-48 months in both of our services, starting in January.

A Cry Room is available in the Pinecrest Lobby.

Please know where your children are at all times, due to the fact that this is a large building with many exits and places to get lost.

Please know that children are not permitted on the chancel due to delicate instruments and equipment.

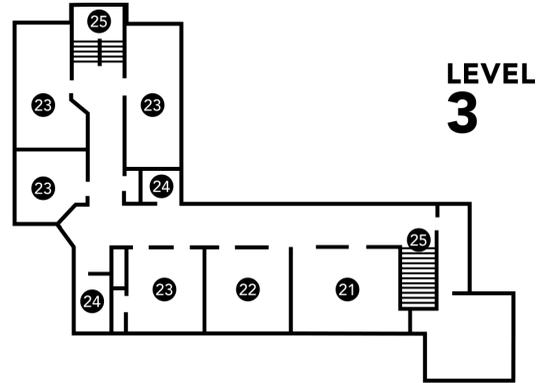


For perspective and practical tips regarding worshipping alongside children, please read our "Worshipping with Little Ones" article in our New City Journal by scanning this QR code.

BUILDING MAP

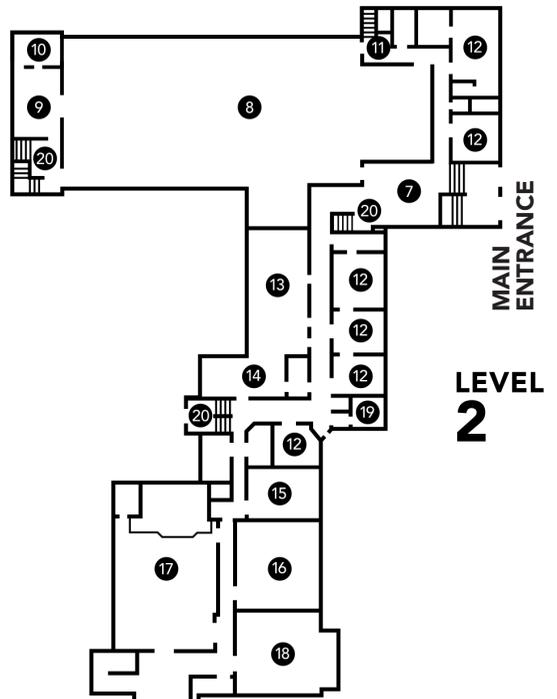
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- 21 CONFERENCE ROOM
- 22 GRIFFIN WORKSPACE
- 23 STAFF OFFICES
- 24 RESTROOMS
- 25 STAIRS



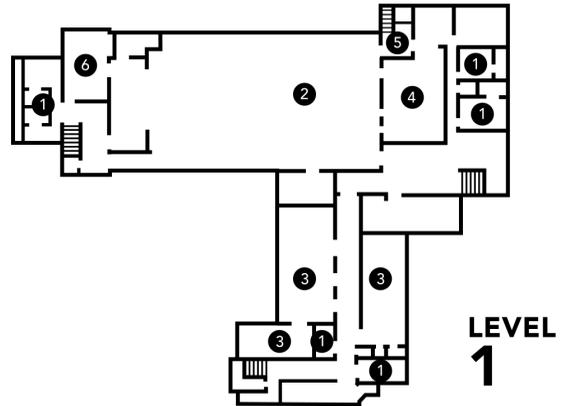
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- 7 WELCOME AREA
- 8 SANCTUARY
- 9 PINECREST LOBBY
- 10 CRYROOM
- ♿ 11 ELEVATOR
- 12 NURSERY
- 13 FIREPLACE ROOM
- 14 GARDEN ROOM
- 15 NC STUDENTS CAFE
- 16 NC STUDENTS REC ROOM
- 17 CHAPEL
- 18 DRAYTON ROOM
- ♿ 19 RESTROOMS
- 20 STAIRS



1

- ① RESTROOMS
- ② GATHERING PLACE
- ③ NC KIDS
- ④ KITCHEN
- ⑤ ELEVATOR
- ⑥ BACKSTAGE ROOM



NEW CITY CONTACTS

PASTORAL NEEDS

Ryan McVicar | ryan.mcvicar@newcitypc.org

FAMILY & STUDENT MINISTRY

Matt Luchenbill | matt.luchenbill@newcitypc.org

NEW CITY KIDS

Meredith Sanislo | meredith.sanislo@newcitypc.org

NURSERY & TODDLERS

Maris Bakker | maris.bakker@newcitypc.org

Angela Wood | angela.wood@newcitypc.org

WORSHIP, MEDIA, & COMMUNICATIONS

Javier Contesse | javier.contesse@newcitypc.org

SUNDAY OPERATIONS

Eric Bonner | eric.bonner@newcitypc.org

OFFICE, FINANCIAL & EVENT NEEDS

Tracy Reynolds | tracy.reynolds@newcitypc.org

Visit our website at:
NEWCITYPC.ORG

Thank you for being part of our service today! We believe gathering for the worship of God is the highest calling for human beings, and we are honored to have had you come alongsidethis transformative hythm of life still be available at **newcitypc.org/live**.



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.

CONTACT INFO

(248) 808-2523
info@newcitypc.org



COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Gathering in the midst of an pandemic brings unique challenges that shape the way we gather. We have put together a list of measures and recommendations for reducing the risk of contagion as much as possible. Please review these guidelines to help everyone stay healthy and safe.

New City News is our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe to receive the latest news at **newcitypc.org/subscribe**



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**

Sign-up to receive our text notifications, by texting **newcitytexts** to 97-000.

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

HOW TO SCAN QR CODES?

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

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For older iPhone models and most Android phones, download the *Quick Scan* app to scan the codes.