

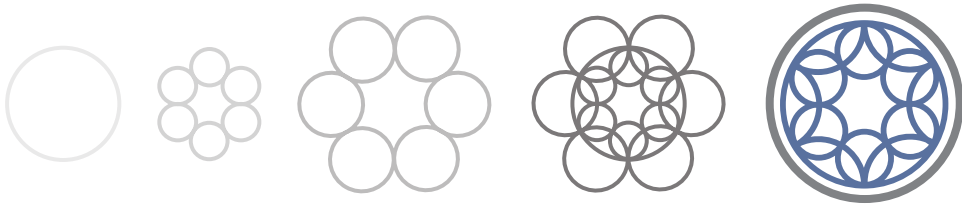


NEW CITY  
presbyterian church

**DECEMBER 17, 2023 – THIRD 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.

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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 35:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.



## GATHERING HYMN

Joy To The World

*Isaac Watts.  
1719, Public Domain*

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

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

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

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 – MATTHEW 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, AND JOY

#### ADVENT LITANY

**LEADER:** As we light the candle of Joy, we rejoice in the coming of our King, as proclaimed in the Psalms.

**CONGREGATION:** In the story of Mary and Joseph, we rejoice in God's astonishing plan.

**LEADER:** The King of Glory enters our world not with fanfare, but in humility and love.

**CONGREGATION:** In His coming, we rejoice with joy that overflows and transforms our lives.

**LEADER:** O God, enlarge our hearts. Grant us loving thankfulness to you, Heavenly Father; strength and cheerfulness in Christ; and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Together, we rejoice as we anticipate the birth of Jesus, our Savior and King.

#### PRAYER

## 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.

## 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

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In The Bleak Midwinter  
*Christina Georgina Rossetti.*  
1872, Public Domain.

In the bleak midwinter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen,  
snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air,  
but only his mother,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the Beloved  
with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him,  
give my heart.

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## 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.

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## PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

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Elder Jeff Ammons

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## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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.

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# 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.

## Psalm 24:7-10 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!  
<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
<sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!   *Selah*



"The King"



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



## DOXOLOGY

Praise God Who Promised Long Ago

© 2019, Javier Contesse.

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!

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.

The Call To Repentance is an invitation to privately examine and prepare our hearts to confess our sins.

## CALL TO REPENTANCE

### ALL

## CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

Mighty King of Glory, we confess that we have not always sought to keep the gates of our hearts wide open for You. You arrive with strength and might, yet inasmuch as You allow us to shed our pride, we begin to see that our frame is weak, and we fear. We have resisted Your rule, we have harbored suspicion and cynicism towards You, and much like Joseph, we have devised plans apart from Your holy will; Our sin has brought sorrow to ourselves and to those around us, and for this we repent. Forgive us for our hesitancy to embrace Your active presence in our lives. Grant us grace and renew our spirits, that we may open our hearts to greet You with genuine joy. Empower us to live under Your gracious rule with steadfast faith and obedience. In Your merciful name we pray. Amen.

### MINISTER

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Psalms 51:7, 12

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.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. [...]  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

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# 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

## The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns

*Thomas Kelly, Javier Contesse.  
1820, Public Domain*

The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now;  
A royal diadem adorns  
The mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords  
Is His, is His by right,  
The King of kings and Lord of lords,  
And heav'n's eternal Light:

*The joy of all who dwell above,  
And joy for all of us below;  
To whom He manifests His love,  
And grants His blessed name to know.*

To us the cross, with all its shame,  
With all its grace, is giv'n;  
Our name an everlasting name,  
Our joy, the joy of heav'n.

The cross He bore is life and health,  
Though shame and death to Him;  
His people's hope, His people's wealth,  
Their everlasting theme.

## 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

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God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

*Anonymous.*

*18c. English Carol, Public Domain*

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 pow'r when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly 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 pow'r 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.

## 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 12/12/23	\$ 714,587
General Fund 2023 Revised Annual Budget	\$ 726,593
Mortgage Balance as of 12/12/23	\$ 284,760

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## TEACHING ELDERS

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## CCLI LICENSE

#11108317

## WIFI PASSWORD

NewCity2022!

Visit our website at:

**NEWCITYPC.ORG**

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tex **newcitytexts** to 97-000.

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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](http://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!