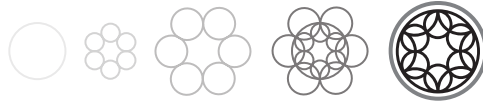


**NEW CITY**  
presbyterian church

**THE LORD'S DAY:  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024**





## WELCOME TO NEW CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful to have you with us as we worship God today. This bulletin is intended to help guide you through the elements of our worship service, including explanations of why we do what we do in corporate worship. We invite you to prepare your heart to come into the presence of our Triune God.

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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.

## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

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Psalm 85:8-13

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup> Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

## GATHERING HYMN

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See Amid The Winter Snow

*Edward Caswall.  
1851, Public Domain.*

See, amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies:  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim.

Sacred infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this!

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## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

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## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 45:22-25

True worship is biblical worship. Throughout our worship service, we read, pray, and sing the words of Scripture.

<sup>22</sup> "Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth!  
For I am God, and there is no other.  
<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn;  
from my mouth has gone out in righteousness  
a word that shall not return:  
To me every knee shall bow,  
every tongue shall swear allegiance.'  
<sup>24</sup> "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,  
are righteousness and strength;  
to him shall come and be ashamed  
all who were incensed against him.  
<sup>25</sup> In the LORD all the offspring of Israel  
shall be justified and shall glory."

## GOSPEL HYMN

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
In the dawning of the King  
He the theme of heaven's praises  
Robed in frail humanity  
In our longing in our darkness  
Now the light of life has come  
Look to Christ who condescended  
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
He the perfect Son of Man  
In His living in His suffering  
Never trace nor stain of sin  
See the true and better Adam  
Come to save the hellbound man  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment  
Of the law in Him we stand

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## Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

*Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker.  
© 2012, Bleecker Publishing.  
CCLI #7026028.*

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Christ the Lord upon the tree  
In the stead of ruined sinners  
Hangs the Lamb in victory  
See the price of our redemption  
See the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory  
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Slain by death the God of life  
But no grave could ever restrain Him  
Praise the Lord He is alive  
What a foretaste of deliverance  
How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected  
As we will be when He comes

## PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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Oliver Jeromin

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## TITHES & 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.

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### 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.



The Offertory accompanies  
the giving of Tithes &  
Offerings with the purpose of  
guiding our minds and hearts  
as we continue in worship.

## CHOIR OFFERTORY

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The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon  
*Arr. Michael Clawson.*

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel.*  
*Born is the King of Israel.*  
*Noel!*

For all to see there was a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave light both day and night.

Preschool-age children  
are welcome to stay in the  
Sanctuary with their parents,  
or will be invited forward at  
this time for a prayer and  
dismissal to Kids' Bible Time.

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## CHILDREN'S PRAYER & DISMISSAL

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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## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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# THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

## Luke 2:25-32 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

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.



**DECEMBER 22**

Luke 2:29-32  
"Nunc Dimittis"

**DECEMBER 24**

Luke 1:46-55  
"Te Deum  
Laudamus"

**DECEMBER 29**

Revelation 15:3-4  
"Canticum Moysi  
et Agni Dei"

**"Nunc Dimittis"**







## DOXOLOGY

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Praise God Who Promised Long Ago

*Javier Contesse. © 2019..*

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.



## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q.31

As a confessional church, we participate in the rich heritage of biblically faithful summaries which seek to build and strengthen our faith in Christ. Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms serve us in this regard, along with biblical confessions.

**Q.** What is effectual calling?

**A.** Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

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

## CALL TO REPENTANCE

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.

## CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our Salvation, we confess that we seek love in all the wrong places. We have pursued fleeting pleasures and false promises in hopes of knowing and being known, yet we remain unsatisfied and frustrated. We confess that we have turned from the true and lasting love You offer us in Jesus Christ; Instead of receiving Your gift of salvation with humble and grateful hearts, we have clung to idols of our own making. Forgive us for our restless hearts that fail to find rest in You. Wash us clean of our faithless pursuits, and turn our eyes toward the Light of the world, in whom we find our salvation and the forgiveness of our sins. In the name of Jesus, the One who came that we might know Your perfect love, we pray. Amen.

We take a moment to search our hearts and confess specific ways we have offended God and transgressed His Holy Law

## SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 4:9-10

<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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# THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

"Our Lord Jesus, on the night that he was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of his body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in his church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of himself in his death; the sealing all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto him; and, to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other, as members of his mystical body.

In this sacrament, Christ is not offered up to his Father; nor any real sacrifice made at all, for remission of sins of the living or dead; but only a commemoration of that one offering up of himself, by himself, upon the cross, once for all: and a spiritual oblation of all possible praise unto God, the alone propitiation for all the sins of his elect.

The Lord Jesus hath, in this ordinance, appointed his ministers to declare his word of institution to the people; to pray, and bless the elements of bread and wine, and thereby to set them apart from a common to an holy use; and to take and break the bread, to take the cup, and (they communicating also themselves) to give both to the communicants; but to none who are not then present in the congregation."

*Westminster Confession of Faith 29.1-3*

We welcome all who trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and are members of a local church to partake of the Lord's Supper. We ask that children refrain from taking communion until they have met with the elders to make a profession of faith in order to be admitted to the table.

You will be directed to one of the four stations in our sanctuary where you will receive the bread and the wine or juice. Gluten-free crackers are available. Please take both elements back to your place so that we may all partake together as one body in communion with Christ.

## 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

ALL

## HYMN AT THE TABLE

O come, all you unfaithful;  
Come, weak and unstable  
Come, know you are not alone  
  
O come, barren and waiting ones,  
Weary of praying, come  
See what your God has done.

*Christ is born, Christ is born  
Christ is born for you*

O come, bitter and broken,  
Come with fears unspoken  
Come, taste of His perfect love

O come, guilty and hiding ones,  
There is no need to run.  
See what your God has done

O Come All You Unfaithful

*Bob Kauffin, Lisa Clow.  
© 2020, Sovereign Grace Praise.  
CCLI #7160115.*

He's the Lamb who was given  
Slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace  
For those who believe

So come, though you have nothing  
Come, He is the offering  
Come, see what your God has done

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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PARTAKING OF THE BREAD & WINE

MINISTER

We praise the Lord and thank Him for His provision in Christ and the means by which we encounter Him and are strengthened by His sanctifying presence.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



## SENDING HYMN

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### 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

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

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.

## BENEDICTION

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# NEW CITY NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us **Tuesday, December 24th at 5pm** for our Christmas Eve Worship Service. Prayerfully consider friends, neighbors, and family you could invite to join us in celebration of Jesus Christ's birth!



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund 2024 Budget	\$ 822,186
General Fund Giving Year-to-Date	\$ 703,857
<i>Needed to make 2024 Budget</i>	<i>\$ 118,329</i>
Mortgage Balance	\$ 63,862



Scan QR Code to give directly to our Building Fund.

# New City exists to be a church in awe of God, made new by the gospel, for the sake of all people.

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### VISITORS & GUESTS

If you are new to New City, we would love to be able to welcome you personally. 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

To access our calendar, register for events, join a small group, request prayer, schedule a baptism, give online, or access the membership directory, download our app at [newcitypc.churchcenter.com](http://newcitypc.churchcenter.com).



### NEWSLETTER & SMS

Subscribe to "New City News" at [newcitypc.org/subscribe](http://newcitypc.org/subscribe) to receive our weekly email newsletter. To receive text notifications, text "newcitytexts" to **97-000**.



### PRAYER

If you would like to share a prayer request with the elders and prayer team, please scan this QR code to share it with us. It would be our privilege to pray with you and for you.

New City Presbyterian Church  
2441 Pinecrest Dr. Ferndale, MI 48220  
[newcitypc.org](http://newcitypc.org) | (248) 808-2523

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)