

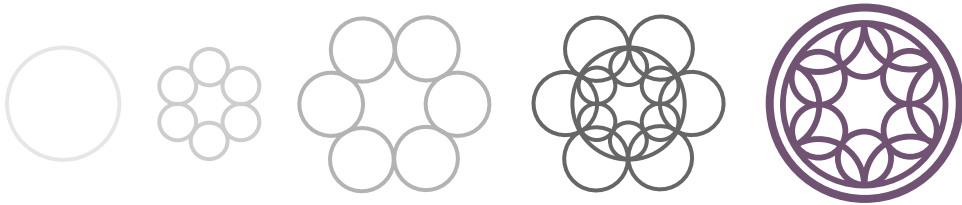


**NEW CITY**  
presbyterian church

**DECEMBER 19, 2021 – 4TH 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

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## 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

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

Psalm 85:7-9

<sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.  
<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; [...]  
<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.



ALL

## GATHERING HYMN

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

*Edmund Sears, Richard Willis, Javier Contesse.  
1850, Public Domain*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold;  
Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From Heaven's all gracious King.  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever over its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

*"Glory to God (Glory to God!)  
In the highest,  
Glory to God (Glory to God!)  
As He shares with you His peace"*

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

The Advent Candles 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.



## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

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4th Week of Advent: Love

## CHRISTMAS HYMN

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Charles Wesley, George Whitefield.  
1739, Public Domain*

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."

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

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## PASTORAL PRAYER

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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## CHILDREN’S DISMISSAL

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## 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 that we can follow-up with you.



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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## TITHES & OFFERINGS

### FOR TEXT & ONLINE GIVING

Text dollar amount (e.g.: \$50) to 843-21  
Give online through Church Center, at [newcitypc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://newcitypc.churchcenter.com/giving) or by scanning the QR code.

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





## DOXOLOGY

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!

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Praise God Who Promised Long Ago

*Javier Contesse.  
2020, Public Domain*

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.



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

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From 1 John 4:7-12

**WORSHIP LEADER** We love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

**CONGREGATION** 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.

**WORSHIP LEADER** If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**EVERYONE** If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.



## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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.



# 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.

## Isaiah 40 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries:

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry!" and I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure

and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

<sup>13</sup> Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?

<sup>14</sup> Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

<sup>15</sup> Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

<sup>16</sup> Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

<sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?

<sup>19</sup> An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains.

<sup>20</sup> He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

<sup>23</sup> who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:



who created these?  
He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name;  
by the greatness of his might  
and because he is strong in power,  
not one is missing.  
<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he increases strength.  
<sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;  
<sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew  
their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

Sermon Series

**Advent 2021**

Rev. Ryan McVicar

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**Love In Times Of Isolation**

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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.**

## *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.

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.

*MINISTER*

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

*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.

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## CALL TO REPENTANCE

## CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved, but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept Your forgiving love, but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp Your offer of redeeming love, but also our resistance to follow You without question. In this time of Advent, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by Your grace, help us to receive You with joy, gratitude, obedience, and love. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Psalm 103:10-12

<sup>10</sup> [The Lord] does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

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## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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During this Advent season, our New City Choir will be ushering us to the Table with songs and hymns of praise.

## **HYMN AT THE TABLE NEW CITY CHOIR**

### *MINISTER*

The Words of Institution echo Jesus' words at the Last Supper, now inviting us to partake of the Bread and Wine in remembrance of Him.

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



## SENDING HYMN

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Angels We Have Heard On High  
*18th Century Traditional French Carol, Public Domain*

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing over the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo*  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King

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.



## BENEDICTION

# BUILDING MAP

**3**

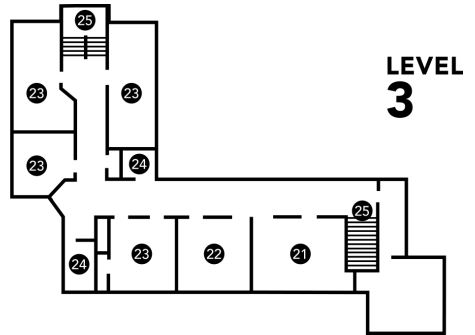
- 21 CONFERENCE ROOM
- 22 GRIFFIN WORKSPACE
- 23 STAFF OFFICES
- 24 RESTROOMS
- 25 STAIRS

**2**

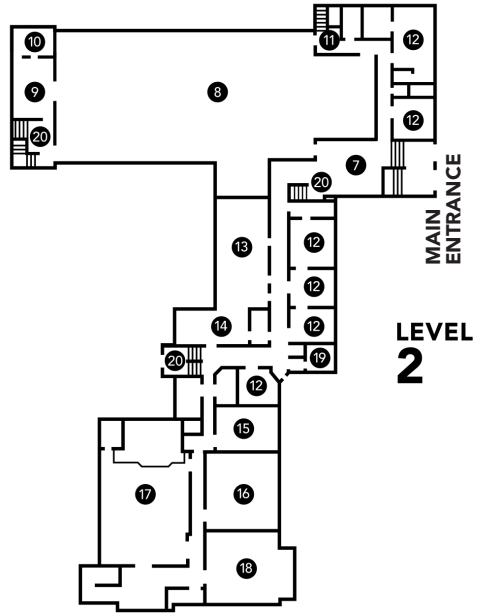
- 7 WELCOME AREA
- 8 SANCTUARY
- 9 PINECREST LOBBY
- 10 CRYROOM
-  11 ELEVATOR
- 12 NURSERY
- 13 FIREPLACE ROOM
- 14 GARDEN ROOM
- 15 NC STUDENTS CAFE
- 16 NC STUDENTS REC ROOM
- 17 CHAPEL
- 18 DRAYTON ROOM
-  19 RESTROOMS
- 20 STAIRS

**1**

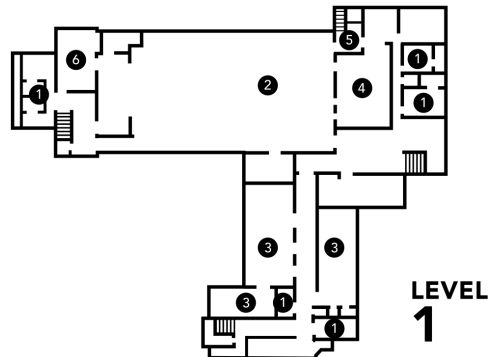
- 1 RESTROOMS
- 2 GATHERING PLACE
- 3 NC KIDS
- 4 KITCHEN
- 5 ELEVATOR
- 6 BACKSTAGE ROOM



**LEVEL 3**



**LEVEL 2**



**LEVEL 1**

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### 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.



### 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](http://newcitypc.org/smallgroups)**



### 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!

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### CCLI LICENSE

#11108317

### WIFI PASSWORD

NewCity2022!

Visit our website at:

**[NEWCITYPC.ORG](http://NEWCITYPC.ORG)**

