

New Life Presbyterian Church

December 4, 2011

Second Sunday in Advent



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† Please stand if you are able,

BOJ - Book of Joy, SF - Sing the Faith, PH - Presbyterian Hymnal

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The chimes call us to the tables for worship.

~Prelude ~

Please let the prelude
help us step away from the everyday
and move into a place of worship.
Let us prepare our hearts, forgive our neighbors,
open our ears to God's call to us this day.

Grace and Peace to you as we watch in the name of the Lord.

Gathering

† Gathering Hymn

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

PH 2

Sharing the Joys and Concerns of the Community

The chimes signal a time of silence in order to center ourselves for worship.

We kindle the first light.

*It is our custom at New Life to light the votive candles on the Communion table
as we sing hymns, pass the peace of Christ, and offer prayers of the people.*

Please come forward at any of these times.

Call to worship

In this season of bleak sun and chilling wind
a voice of infinite warmth and tenderness is heard:
"I shall comfort my people."
It is God come to us in splendid mercy, in human form.
Let God gather you as a shepherd sweeps up a lamb into his arms.
There rest in joy.
Let us worship the Good Shepherd who gathers us unto himself.

Hearing the Word

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Lighting the Advent Candles

Please light two purple candles at your table as the congregational candle is lighted.

Reader: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" (Luke 2:8-10)

Reader: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good,
steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home,
doing the job no one wants.
And yet God saw them, God valued them,
and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

**People: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us,
back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands,
those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival,
the ones who have much to teach us
about watching for God in the darkness.**

Reader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle
as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel
and redeemers of the world.

† Advent Hymn “Down By the Jordan” (Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty)

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
“God will forgive! Show that you’ll change how you live!
Surely God’s new day is rising!”

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
“Are you God’s Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?”
“No!” John replied. “He who is mightier than I
Judges and offers salvation.”

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
Taking your place among sinners, God’s lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God’s Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God’s Spirit.
Freed and forgiven, we’re welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
This is God’s sign! This is how God says, “You’re mine!”
Let’s take the good news and share it!

Call to Transformation (Unison):

God of the Past, in the wilderness of Jordan you sent a messenger
to prepare human hearts for the coming of the Christ.
We rejoice that through the centuries that message of hope
has brought confidence and joy to people.

God of the Present, now you are among us.
Forgive us that often we have failed to discern your presence with us,
and have felt deserted and alone.
Make strong in our hearts the faith that enables us
to live serenely and triumphantly.

God of the Future, you have promised that Christ’s reign is coming.
Teach us to live in expectation, that what we are and do today
may be anchored in the certainty of your tomorrow.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalter Reading: Psalm 78: 1-7

NL Choral Ensemble

Directed by Matalie Wham

“Prepare Ye” words and music by Marc Robinson

*Hear the voice crying in the wilderness?
Can you hear the crying, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord”?
First came the prophet, crying in the wilderness,
speaking to the people,
Saying, “One is coming, both to judge and save.
You must prepare the way of the Lord.”
Then came the Baptist, crying in the wilderness,
“I baptize you with water,
but One is coming who will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire.”
Now we join the crying in the wilderness.
Let us lift up our voices, saying,
“Come, Lord Jesus, now into our lives.
Let us prepare the way of the Lord.”*

A time with the Youth and Children

† Sharing the Peace of Christ with the community.

† Hymn

“Toda la Tierra”

BOJ 154

Scripture

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

Epistle Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Sermon

“Is Civility Possible?”

Kathy Garland

A time of silence

Preparation for Prayer

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”
(remain seated)

SF 2128

The Chimes Signal the Prayers of the People
*As we offer our prayers of petition and of thanks, the people respond,
“God, you hear our prayers,” or “God, we thank you.”*

The Prayer of Jesus
*We pray this prayer inviting each of you to pray it in the version closest to your heart.
Even as we pray, we listen to the rich diversity here.*

Sharing Our Bounty

Minute for Mission: The Christmas Joy Offering

Offering Improvisational Music by Matalie Wham

† New Life Doxology BOJ 86

† Unison Prayer of Dedication
**In this season of gift giving,
help us remember your ultimate gift of Jesus Christ.
Remembering that, we bring these tokens of our bounty
to be shared with others and to do your work in the world. Amen.**

Going Out

† Hymn for Going Out “Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow” PH 50

† Charge and Benediction

Postlude

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This morning’s service was prepared by Lynn Coburn and the Worship Committee.

Resources used: *Bread for the Journey*, edited by Ruth C. Duck,  
*All the Seasons of Mercy* by Diane Karay, *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

Advent Hymn: Tune: Straisund Ernewerten Gesangbuch, 1665.

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(Upper Room Books, 2009).

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Grace and mercy be yours this Advent Season. As we prepare for Christmas and the Inbreaking of God we gather for worship and praise and prayer. This is a wonderful time of year, and we pray that your hearts and home will be filled with the presence of God in fullest measure.

- We will celebrate Communion on December 25, Christmas Sunday. Worship at 10:30 am as usual.
- On the December 20 at 7:00 pm we will hold a Blue Christmas service remembering that the passing of the year brings both joy and tears.
- Christmas Eve services are at 7:00 pm with candlelight worship. Make ready and plan to come to these and other opportunities for worship.

Pastor Bobbie will be on vacation until December 12. She and her daughter are visiting family in India. They go south first to Kotigiri to visit a nephew who works with indigenous people to find ways to support themselves so they can stay in their villages (internet at keystone-foundation.org). They spend the second week in Bhogpur Children's Home, near DehraDun in the north in the foothills of the Himalayas (home4children.com). The children there are children of leper parents from K-12th grades. The Home was founded by John's grandparents Drs. John and Elizabeth Taylor. Bobbie thanks you for your prayers for them as they journey.

*The Rev. Frank Yates will be available
for emergency pastoral care during Bobbie's absence.
His telephone number at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is 881-9626.*

Welcome to New Life Community Presbyterian Church, a welcoming family of believers and seekers from diverse spiritual backgrounds, striving to be a cooperative and mutually respectful community in which to pursue our individual and community relationship with God.

We carry out God's mission for New Life as a joyful, sensitive faith community modeled on the inclusive and healing love of Jesus Christ. We reflect Christ's love to all who come through our doors, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, race or economic status. We extend this ethic to our pastor, elders and deacons.

- We are open to freedom of interpretation of Scripture, believing that truth is also found in our experiences of God in our individual and communal lives.

- We practice freedom of expression in worship, inviting participation from the whole congregation.

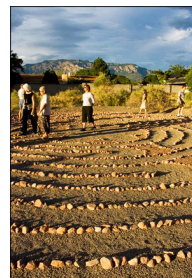
- We worship at round tables to signify inclusivity, connection and equality.

- As part of our ministry to explore and deepen our individual and collective spirituality, we host an ancient form of walking meditation called the labyrinth.

- We reach out to the community at large through our ongoing participation with Project Share, Habitat for Humanity, the Martineztown House of Neighborly Services, and other projects.

NEW LIFE is home to two labyrinths, tools for walking prayer and meditation, that date back to the 12th century pattern found in Chartres Cathedral in France. Our indoor canvas labyrinth is used for meditative services throughout the year. The outdoor labyrinth is open from dawn to dusk daily year-round.

Every Sunday evening, a contemplative Taizé service from 6:30 - 7:15 is held at New Life. On the last Sunday evening of each month we hold a shorter Taizé service with a labyrinth walk following. The Labyrinth walks will be held outside, weather permitting. In 'uncooperative' weather and on special occasions, we will have the walk on the indoor labyrinth.



New Life Presbyterian Church
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MINISTERS - ALL THE MEMBERS OF NEW LIFE
PASTOR - THE REV. DR. BOBBIE G. MCGAREY: 918-0240
Bobbie's Office Hours: Monday 10-2, Tuesday 2-5, Wednesday 1-6
Please call Bobbie if these times are not convenient for you.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND PIANIST - MATALIE WHAM
SECRETARY & WEB WEAVER - DIDI ACOSTA

The New Life Session ordinarily meets on the second Sunday of each month after worship and Random Sacks of Kindness.
Contemplative Taizé Service ~ Every Sunday evening at 6:30
Taizé service and Labyrinth walk ~ the last Sunday of each month