

New Life Presbyterian Church

February 27, 2011



We celebrate
The beautiful women
in the household of God
who regularly do
beautiful things
in love and faithfulness
to Jesus Christ.

There are women
in scripture and women
in our congregations
who regularly do beautiful
things and are remarkable
saints in the faith.

We celebrate women,
their service
and the
beautiful things they do
that keep the church
vibrant,
active
and full of God's love.

Illustration by He Qi

New Life Presbyterian Church

February 27, 2011

*Beautiful Women Who Do Beautiful Things
A Service of the Worship of God*

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† Please stand if you are able      PH - Presbyterian Hymnal  
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The chimes call us to the tables for worship.

Prelude

Grace and Peace to you. Let us worship God.

Gathering

† Gathering Chant “You Shall Be Like a Garden” Music on Tables

*Announcements and Introductions
Welcome and Introduction of Guests*

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

One: Expensive oil poured upon Jesus’ head,

All: anoints him beforehand for his burial.

One: Scolded by some, but defended by Jesus:

**All: “Wherever the good news is proclaimed,
what she has done will be remembered.”**

One: She is remembered for her extravagant act;

**All: she is remembered for the beautiful thing she has done
for the One who is beloved.**

Based on Mark 14:3–9

† Hymn

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

PH 285

A Litany of Celebration

† Hymn Response

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

PH 358

Hearing the Word

Scripture

1 Samuel 2: 1-4

Call to Confession

We join as one family, sisters and brothers.

We come to experience forgiveness and peace.

In faithful witness to your goodness, O God, we confess our sins
before you and one another.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Loving God, we confess that too often we see others serving you
in ways that appear excessive and extravagant to us.**

**We criticize, scold, and pass judgment upon others,
as if we could limit the abundant ways that they express their love
and service to you.**

Forgive us, we pray, for our short-sightedness and sin.

**Help us to recognize that there are a variety of ways for diverse peoples
to express their faithfulness and love to you.**

Responsive Assurance of Pardon

One: Our God loves us, even when we are not particularly loving ourselves.

All: Our God forgives us, even when we have been unforgiving of others.

One: Our God gives us grace, even though we do not deserve it.

All: So, let us love one another.

One: So, let us forgive each other.

All: So, let us offer grace to one another.

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven and freed.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

NL Choral Ensemble

Directed by Matalie Wham

“How Can I Keep From Singing?” Traditional folk hymn arr. by Joyce Eilers

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real, though far-off, hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
When, though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.
What, though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night, it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
When tyrants tremble as they hear the bells of freedom ringing,
when friends rejoice, both far and near, can I keep from singing?*

Scripture Reading from Psalm 139: 1–14

A time with the children

Children leave for Sunday Circle.

† Sharing the Peace of God

*To our guests and first time visitors today: During the sharing of the Peace
it is our custom to move around and greet one another. Please join us.*

Scripture Readings from

Mark 14:3–9

1 John 4:7–16

Sermon “Something Beautiful for God”

Rev. Bobbie G. McGarey

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.”*
Pastoral Prayer

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

*And then the sheep will ask, "Master, what are you talking about?
When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink?
And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?"
Then the Master will say,
"I'm telling the solemn truth:
Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored,
that was me - you did it to me."*

Matthew 25: 37-40

Offering

Improvisational Music by Matalie Wham

† Doxology

Copies on Tables

† Prayer of Dedication

Going Out

† Sending Hymn

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

PH 367

† Charge and Blessing

One: Engage in mission and ministry in the name of Christ.

All: Perform good services,

One: do beautiful things,

All: remember God's beautiful ones, who serve in Christ's name.

One: May God's blessings be poured out to you.

All: May God's love and grace be upon you this day and forever more.

Amen.

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This morning's service was prepared by Bobbie McGarey and the Worship Committee.  
Resources from Rhashell D. Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries,  
Presbyterian Women in the General Assembly Mission Council  
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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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.

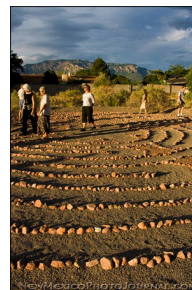
- We worship at round tables to signify inclusivity, connection and equality.

- 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: 266-2857
SECRETARY & WEB WEAVER - DIDI ACOSTA: wireless 450-2127

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