



NEW BRIDGES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 27, 2024 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

SONG | “Instruments Of Your Peace”

(see screen)

WELCOME

Mission Statement

“To bring Christ’s Gospel to all people. Proclaim the good news of divine mercy through worship, witness, and ministry. We grow and build our congregation and raise up leaders to serve God’s call for advocacy, justice, and reconciliation.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, children of God, and be welcomed as you are.

We gather in this place to receive the good news of grace.

Come, children of God, and experience the living Christ.

We come to be made new in the resurrection of our Savior.

Come, children of God, and be transformed by the Spirit.

We come to be sent out as a blessing to the world.

Come, let us worship God.

SONG | “Iba Oh (Bowing in Reverence)”

Blessed art thou, Son of David

Blessed art thou, Root of Jesse

Blessed art thou, Son of David

Blessed art thou, Root of Jesse

You are eminently glorious,

immaculately beautiful

I can go on and on, on and on

But my words are not enough

My vocabulary will fail me

But permit me to cry out,

(continued...)

Refrain

Iba oh!

Iba oh, iba, Iba oh, iba

Iba oh, iba, Iba oh, iba

Blessed art thou, Rock of Ages
Blessed art thou, King of Heaven
Blessed art thou, Rock of Ages
Blessed art thou, King of Heaven

You are infinitely powerful,
magnificently wonderful
I can go on and on, on and on
But my words are not enough
My vocabulary they fail me
Permit me to bring this song of victory

SONG | “Because He Lives”

God sent his son, they called him Jesus
He came to love, heal, and forgive
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove
My Savior lives

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow
Because he lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, he holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because he lives

PRAYER OF CONFESSION based on Galatians 1:6

Compassionate God, we have confused the good news of your gospel.
When we place our faith in traditions, rituals, and the comfort of the past—clinging
to what has always been, instead of embracing the new life to which you call us,
Forgive us for following the false gospel of our ancestors.
When we place our faith in our own achievements and hard work—believing that

our worth is measured by success or perfection, forgetting that your grace is freely given,

Forgive us for following the false gospel of success.

When we place our faith in the walls we build—in stereotypes, prejudices, and biases that separate us from one another—forgetting that in Christ, there is no division between race, gender, or status,

Forgive us for following the false gospel of division.

When we place our faith in our nation and its leaders—trusting in political power to bring us security, forgetting that your kingdom is without borders and surpasses all earthly rule,

Forgive us for following the false gospel of nationalism.

When we place our faith in our own desires and ambitions—pursuing wealth, comfort, or success at the expense of others—forgetting the needs of the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed,

Forgive us for following the false gospel of individualism.

When we place our faith in our independence—believing we can do it all on our own, without relying on you or the community of believers you have given us

Forgive us for following the false gospel of autonomy.

Hear our silent confessions.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE based on Galatians 3:23-28

²³ Before faith came, we were guarded under the Law, locked up until faith that was coming would be revealed, ²⁴ so that the Law became our custodian until Christ so that we might be made righteous by faith.

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

²⁶ You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and are being made whole.

SONG | "Gloria Patri"

Glory to God #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL | Today after worship, Fellowship Hall
Every Sunday, all are welcome for our fellowship meal following worship. Thanks to Nelson & Yvonne Mosi for providing food.

PUMPKING CARVING | Today after fellowship meal, on the lawn

NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL | Every Sunday during worship
We are now offering Nursery and Sunday School during worship! Nursery is for children ages 3 months to 3 years in the classroom across from the church office. Sunday School is for ages 4 to 12 years in the youth room next to the Sanctuary. Please drop off and pick up your children before and after worship. Please email Pastor John or contact Vera Anye with any questions.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE | Sunday, November 17, 10:00 AM
Join us in worship for New Bridges' Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service. This is a time to give thanks to God for every good gift in your life by giving back to God through your harvest offering. Your harvest offering will be used to support the work that God is doing through New Bridges. We invite you to give generously as you are able.

NOMINATE YOUR CHURCH LEADERS

Its election season! Each fall the congregations nominate members of New Bridges to be installed as your Ruling Elders, Nominating Committee, and Deacons. Scan the QR code to nominate your candidate.



GIVING REPORT:

\$38,157.46 (Giving this year)

\$66,591.75 (Giving goal this month to meet our annual budget)

\$-28,434.29 (Difference)

As we look ahead to the end of the year, we need your help to meet our budget. We are down from our giving goal for the year by almost 50%. Please give as you are able to support the work that God is doing through the ministry of New Bridges. Set up automatic payments through Venmo, PayPal, or CashApp. For questions, email Dorene Halseth at treasurer@newbridgeschurch.org.

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORD

ANTHEM | "Firm Foundation (He Won't)"

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus

'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

Chorus

He won't He won't

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now

He won't He won't
He won't fail, He won't fail

Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause I'm standing strong on You
Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause my house is built on You

Austin Davis, Chandler Moore, Cody Carnes
CCLI Song #7188203

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE | Galatians 3:1-29

¹ You irrational Galatians! Who put a spell on you? Jesus Christ was put on display as crucified before your eyes! ² I just want to know this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the Law or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so irrational? After you started with the Spirit, are you now finishing up with your own human effort? ⁴ Did you experience so much for nothing? I wonder if it really was for nothing. ⁵ So does the one providing you with the Spirit and working miracles among you do this by you doing the works of the Law or by you believing what you heard?

⁶ Understand that in the same way that Abraham *believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness*, ⁷ those who believe are the children of Abraham. ⁸ But when it saw ahead of time that God would make the Gentiles righteous on the basis of faith, scripture preached the gospel in advance to Abraham: *All the Gentiles will be blessed in you*. ⁹ Therefore, those who believe are blessed together with Abraham who believed.

¹⁰ All those who rely on the works of the Law are under a curse, because it is written, *Everyone is cursed who does not keep on doing all the things that have been written in the Law scroll*. ¹¹ But since no one is made righteous by the Law as far as God is concerned, it is clear that *the righteous one will live on the basis of faith*. ¹² The Law isn't based on faith; rather, *the one doing these things will live by them*. ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us—because it is written, *Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed*. ¹⁴ He redeemed us so that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, and that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, I'll use an example from human experience. No one ignores or makes additions to a validated will. ¹⁶ The promises were made to Abraham and to his descendant. It doesn't say, "and to the descendants," as if referring to many rather than just one. It says, "and to your descendant," who is Christ. ¹⁷ I'm saying this: the Law, which came four hundred thirty years later, doesn't invalidate the agreement that was previously validated by God so that it cancels the promise. ¹⁸ If the inheritance were based upon the Law, it would no longer be from the promise. But God has given it graciously to Abraham through a promise.

¹⁹ So why was the Law given? It was added because of offenses, until the

descendant would come to whom the promise had been made. It was put in place through angels by the hand of a mediator.²⁰ Now the mediator does not take one side; but God is one.²¹ So, is the Law against the promises of God? Absolutely not! If a Law had been given that was able to give life, then righteousness would in fact have come from the Law.²² But scripture locked up all things under sin, so that the promise based on the faithfulness of Jesus Christ might be given to those who have faith.²³ Before faith came, we were guarded under the Law, locked up until faith that was coming would be revealed,²⁴ so that the Law became our custodian until Christ so that we might be made righteous by faith.

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

²⁶ You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus.²⁷ All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

REAFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH from Belhar Confession, 1986

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe

that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding

force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered;

that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;

that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.

To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

RESPONSE

SONG | “Lean On Me”

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain, we all have sorrow
But if we are wise,
We know that there's always tomorrow

Refrain

Lean on me when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long till I'm gonna need
somebody to lean on

(continued...)

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill
Those of your needs that you won't let show

You just call on me brother
when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry, I'm right up the road
I'll share your load if you just call me
If you need a friend

Call me

Call me

Call me

OFFERING

Scan the QR code to give online through
CashApp, PayPal, and Venmo. To give via Zelle,
send to treasurer@newbridgeschurch.org.



OFFERTORY

SENDING

SONG | “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

(see screen)

BLESSING

NEW BRIDGES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Chidera Kanu

Praise Team Leader: Minerva Kum

Cover Art: "Open Table" by Lauren Wright Pittman, A Sanctified Art

STAFF

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Lay Pastor: Helen Gwanfogbe

Director of Operations: Teresa Perez

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Treasurer: Dorene Halseth

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Child Care Provider: Cheryl Stone

A/V Engineer: Fon Anye

SESSION

Vera Anye

CRE Helen Gwanfogbe, Clerk

Dorene Halseth

Obadiah Kenji

Charles Kenji

Yvonne Mosi

DEACONS

Daniel Gwanfogbe

Arnold Mbah

Nelson Mosi

Godlove Ngone

Odim Ochuru

Cheryl Stone

Faith Teneng



*"A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
Where All May Freely Serve"*