



A Time of Reflection with Pastor Gene Henderson

[Edits by Pastor Pier]

It won't read very Christmas-y. That's because the perspective is not in front of the lights and the presents and the tree. The perspective is behind it all. Which makes it absolutely Christmas-y.

Smart husbands let their wives do the shopping. For obvious reasons. If you aren't married, don't stop reading. This isn't about marriage. It's about human interaction. It's about the dance.

Sometimes it's a clumsy dance. The footwork gets all complicated. We step on each other's toes. We crumble in a heap and hurt ourselves. We pull away and think we aren't wired for this dance. But something inside pulls us. Ultimately, at our core, we're social creatures. We need the touch, the interaction. We need this dance.

Sometimes it's competitive. Who's leading? Why are we doing a flamenco? Why not a waltz? Or a line dance? There's no way I can stand on my head and spin like that! Do I look like I'm hip-hop? This isn't my kind of music. Doesn't seem to matter if it's cultures colliding or countries squaring off or just the generations at odds with each other. Bottom line? It's all because *"Your mama don't dance and your daddy don't rock and roll / When the evening rolls around / and it's time to go to town / where do you go? / To rock and roll."* Something is pulling us. Feel the music. Sense the beat. Toes are tapping. We need this dance.

Sometimes it's flat out confusing. Which shouldn't surprise us. Clumsy + competition = confusion. But, hey, we're emotional and ambitious and (maybe just a little bit, a tiny, whiny little bit) proud. And aggressive. *"I don't care if it's your husband | house | land | country | job | money, I want it and I'm taking it."* You think after a few thousand years we'd learn. Sigh. We don't like this painful dance. But we're in this painful dance.

So, light the sky. Uncover a star. Choose a couple of unlikely dancers and send them a baby. Teach this clumsy, competitive, confused world some new steps. Give them a reason to dance. Jesus was born and He is the Savior of the world. **Something worth rejoicing in this Christmas!**

Merry Christmas!



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity In Prayer: 6:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;

Kid's Club & Youth

Prayer ½ hour before services

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Offering – There is an offering box as you enter the sanctuary on the right side just inside the door. Thank you for your giving faithfulness.

Sunday Evening Prayer – will take place in our homes during the winter. Let intercede for a real move of God.

Wednesday Bible Study – the next two Wednesday nights, the 26th and the 2nd of January will be cancelled so all can attend our Christmas Eve service and the New Year's Eve service.

Promoting Our Church – please take a flyer on the table in the foyer and use it to promote our church. God bless our efforts!

Free For The Taking – in the basement next to the last room we have some items donated to the church. Please stop by and see what you might want and take it. We also have a crib, portable crib and stroller along with some other items for children in the foyer under the coat rack. If you can use any or know of someone who can, please take them.

Christmas Eve Service – December 24th, at 6:00 PM. Come and celebrate Jesus' birthday together in His presence.

New Year's Eve Service – December 31st, at 10:00 PM. We will be celebrating Holy Communion as the New Year comes in.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

A CHRISTMAS SONNET by Douglas Knighton
Recited by Emmanuel Baffoe

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Christmas Medley – New Life Children
Silent Night
Away In A Manger
Joy To The World

Mary Did You Know?

Sung by Neissa Rosario & Paul Slingerland

Noel

Interpretive Dance by New Life Children

Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem

Interpretive Dance by Debbie DeVries

Jesus Calling – The Story of Christmas by Sarah Young
Read by Raúl Rosario

When Love Came Down

Sung by Paul Slingerland

Morning Devotional – A Sign At Christmas

Pastor Pier

Scriptures:

Matthew 2:1-12

1 Samuel 21:8

Psalms 19:1 [New King James Version]

Matthew 2:3-6 [New Living Translation]

Romans 2:4 [New Century Version]

Romans 2:11 [New Century Version]

Matthew 7:13-14

Matthew 21:32

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor

Rev. Arthur Henderson – Pastor

Pastor's cell phone: 518.567.9788

Location: 292 Hays Rd, East Greenbush, NY 12061

Mail: PO Box 105, East Greenbush, NY 12061

Office Telephone: 518.479.3439

Email: pastorpier@newlifeaogeg.org

Webpage: <http://www.newlifeaogeg.org>

Guest Wi-Fi: NewLife – password: NewLife292