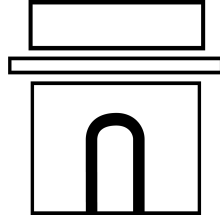


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting online @ 10:30am

“On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.”

Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God.”

A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

1.9.22

On behalf of the congregation of Neighborhood Church of Greenwich Village, we welcome you to our worship service. Our prayer is that your contact with us today encourages you to seek the living and true God.

In the words of the prophet Isaiah:
“Seek the LORD while he may be found,
Call upon Him while he is near.” (Isaiah 55:6)

This is our hope for
“... the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King.” (Jeremiah 10:10)

In His grace,

Kirk van der Swaagh & Nick Nowalk, Pastors

A word about our worship:

We have sought to pattern our service after biblical accounts of people confronted by God. Such encounters often involve God making himself known in his righteousness and holiness, which, in turn, causes people to be very aware of their innate sinfulness. In humility, they confess their sinfulness and God graciously lifts them up and instructs them as to what he expects of them. They then respond by committing to serve him. Such incidents as found in Isaiah 6, Exodus 3, Luke 5, and Acts 9, are good examples. May the Lord be pleased to grant such an encounter to us this day.

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM | Lord's Day 2

Question #3

From where do you know your sins and misery?

From the law of God

Question #4

What does God's law require of us?

Christ teaches us this in a summary in Matthew 22: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commands.'

Question #5

Can you keep all this perfectly?

No, I am inclined by nature to hate God and my neighbor.

ΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩ

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Psalm 63

- 1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
- 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
- 4 So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
- 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
- 6 when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
- 7 for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.
- 8 My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.
- 9 But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
- 10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.
- 11 But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

Opening Prayer

Hymn

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy Name,
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Confession of Faith | *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
Once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,

Pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

Ev'ry island, sea, and mountain,
Heav'n and earth, shall flee away;
All who hate him must, confounded,
Hear the trump proclaim the day;
Come to judgment! Come to judgment!
Come to judgment, come away!

Now Redemption, long expected,
See in solemn pomp appear!
All his saints, by man rejected,
Now shall meet him in the air:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the day of God appear!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly:
Alleluia! come, Lord, come.

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (James 5:16)

Corporate Confession

O King and Father, your Son died and was raised up in power. Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance so we may rise to new life in Him. We confess to you:

Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves; though you should rule us, we control ourselves; though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. We think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Now heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

Silent Personal Confession

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Assurance of Grace

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (Psalm 32:1-2)

Response

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder
Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame

Let us love the Lord Who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us

Gave us ears and gave us eyes

He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He presents our souls to God

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more

He Who washed us with His blood
He Who washed us with His blood
He Who washed us with His blood
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky

He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
Soon will bring us home to God

The Word of God

Scripture Readings

Daniel 7:13-14, 10:1-12
Matthew 17:1-8
Revelation 1:1-20

Message

“Listening to What Jesus Says to the Churches Through the Spirit”

Our Response to God's Grace

Prayers of Intercession

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near...He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen." (Revelation 1:3, 22:20-21)

AΩAΩAΩAΩAΩAΩAΩ

PRAY

- For the kick-off of our "Glove Love" campaign
- For minimal disruption for those who traveled to visit family over Christmas
- For our Eric Abrams, our newly installed mayor, as well as other newly elected government officials
- *COVID-19 has not gone away, so pray . . .*
 - For the mental health of fellow New Yorkers as winter and Covid settles in
 - For wisdom in navigating the protocols after inevitable infections that will affect not just those who have tested positive, but those who have had contact with them
 - For those serving on the frontline as EMTs, doctors, nurses, technicians, orderlies, teachers
 - For those who have lost loved ones, and for those who are gravely ill
 - Pray for the economic recovery of our city
- For the work of the Lord to prosper through ministries supported by our church: Andrew and Esther Schaeffer in Burkina Faso; Avi and Ruth Snyder in Hungary; the ministry of Hope Academy; Do for One; Bowery Mission; Avail Pregnancy Help Center; Expect Hope; The Father's Heart, and Open Doors.

THE SUFFERING CHURCH

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

FOR JANUARY:

Afghanistan:

This country faces an uncertain future with the Taliban planning to institute strict sharia law. Sharia law forbids any belief except Islam and takes a radical approach to all aspects of society. Though thousands have fled, millions remain and are bracing themselves for what is to come.

- Pray for all Christians that the Lord protects them from the regime. Psalm 46:1
- Pray for women and girls as they face significant restrictions under the regime. May the Lord's encouragement strengthen their hearts.
- Children are being lured into betraying their parents by exposing their parents' Christian beliefs. This comes with tragic consequences. Pray that the children, to protect their own families, would think before they respond to bribes or threats.
- Pray that the Taliban responds to the world's outcry against their methods of punishment and will scale back the prosecutions and intimidation of its own people.
- Pray for a powerful, miraculous outbreak of belief in Jesus, despite what seems to be a hopeless situation.

China:

This is a country with a population of 1.4 billion people. Due to one of the greatest revivals of all times there are millions of Christians living there. Though their numbers are growing our brethren still struggle.

- Christians face overt persecution. Pray that believers will be filled with wisdom and the ability to stand strong.
- Pray that the persecution believers endure will be the seeds of greater faith and result in even more believers as people observe our brothers and sisters unwavering faith in Jesus.
- Pray that God would move in a supernatural way to ease restrictions on Christians so they can gather without fear and minister to those around them free of prohibitive regulations.

Mozambique:

Militant suspected of being jihadists attacked five villages in which Christians lived. They looted the villages and burned several huts to the ground. Allegedly, they found and beheaded a pastor.

- Pray that good and peace will come from this tragic situation. Genesis 50:20; Philippians 4:7
- Pray that the Lord would make himself known to the widow and her family. May he faithfully provide for her every need. Ask the Lord to draw the local church close around them like they were his own arms.
- Pray for the congregation. May they be comforted and their faith strengthened so that they would be carried through the days and months ahead.

- Pray that the pastor's death will serve a greater kingdom purpose by driving his church and others who knew him to intentionally and deeply seek Christ. May they endure as seeing him who is invisible.

Ephesians 6:18; Deuteronomy 33:27; Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 Corinthians 5:14-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For activities on zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7756249830?pwd=N3dUU2s4Sjg3bkU5R2F3aklTZkxzZz09>

To attend Sunday worship in person:

Masks are required in our worship space

Today

- Worship, 10:30am, online using the above link

This Week

- Wednesday, 7:30pm on Zoom: *Quarterly Prayer Meeting*

Upcoming

- January 23: we continue on Zoom
- January 30, Volunteer Day, Father's Heart, Contact Kristen: ncgvvolunteer@gmail.com

Contact

Phone: 212.691.1770

Mail: 269 Bleecker St., New York NY 10014

Email: ncgv@ncgvnyc.com

Website: ncgvnyc.com

Sermons: sermonaudio.com/solo/ncgy

Pastors: Kirk van der Swaagh, Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles

Prayer Meetings on Zoom

Monday 9-9:30pm

Tuesday 7:30-8:00am

Wednesday 12:30-1:00pm

Thursday 9-9:30pm

Please take a moment to let us know you're here:



Neighborhood Church is a member of the
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference