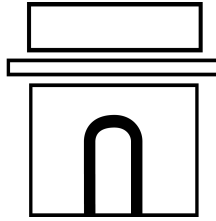


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“What is more consonant with faith than to recognize that we are naked of all virtue, in order to be clothed by God? That we are empty of all good, to be filled by him? That we are slaves of sin, to be freed by him? Blind, to be illumined by him? Lame, to be made straight by him? Weak, to be sustained by him? To take away from us all occasion for glorying, that he alone may stand forth gloriously and we glory in him?...As we ought to presume nothing of ourselves, so ought we to presume all things of God; nor are we stripped of vainglory for any other reason than to learn to glory in the Lord.”

John Calvin, in his “Prefatory Address to the King of France” in *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

“Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But, while joined by many bonds, which one precedes and brings forth the other is not easy to discern. In the first place, no one can look upon himself without immediately turning his thoughts to the contemplation of God, in whom he ‘lives and moves.’ For, quite clearly, the mighty gifts with which we are endowed are hardly from ourselves; indeed, our very being is nothing but subsistence in the one God. Then, by these benefits shed like dew from heaven upon us, we are led as by rivulets to the spring itself.

Indeed, our very poverty better discloses the infinitude of benefits reposing in God. The miserable ruin, into which the rebellion of the first man cast us, especially compels us to look upward. Thus, not only will we, in fasting and hungering, seek thence what we lack; but, in being aroused by fear, we shall learn humility. For, as a veritable world of miseries is to be found in mankind, and we are thereby despoiled of divine raiment, our shameful nakedness exposes a teeming horde of infamies. Each of us must, then, be so stung by the consciousness of his own unhappiness as to attain at least some knowledge of God. Thus, from the feeling of our own ignorance, vanity, poverty, infirmity, and—what is more—depravity and corruption, we recognize that the true light of wisdom, sound virtue, full abundance of every good, and purity of righteousness rest in the Lord alone. To this extent we are prompted by our own ills to contemplate the good things of God; and we cannot seriously aspire to him before we begin to become displeased with ourselves. For what man in all the world would not gladly remain as he is—what man does not remain as he is—so long as he does not know himself, that is, while content with his own gifts, and either ignorant or unmindful of his own misery? Accordingly, the knowledge of ourselves not only arouses us to seek God, but also, as it were, leads us by the hand to find him.”

John Calvin, the opening statement of *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1.1.1

2.27.22

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 9

Question #26

What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"?

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son.

I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world.

God is able to do this because he is almighty God, and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Psalm 81

- 1 Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
- 2 Raise a song; sound the tambourine,
the sweet lyre with the harp.
- 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
at the full moon, on our feast day.
- 4 For it is a statute for Israel,
a rule of the God of Jacob.
- 5 He made it a decree in Joseph
when he went out over the land of Egypt.
I hear a language I had not known:
- 6 "I relieved your shoulder of the burden;
your hands were freed from the basket.
- 7 In distress you called, and I delivered you;
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah
- 8 Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

9 There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
10 I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
11 "But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.
12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
to follow their own counsels.
13 Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!
14 I would soon subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.
15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe toward him,
and their fate would last forever.
16 But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Opening Prayer

Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King
All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam

[Refrain]

O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One

[Refrain]

All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him

[Refrain]

He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King

[Refrain]

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.

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10)

Corporate Confession

Most Merciful Father, we humbly admit that we need your help. We confess that we have wandered from your way like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, and have failed to do what is right. You alone can save us. Have mercy upon us, Lord; forgive our sins and teach us to forgive others. Turn our hearts to love and obey you. Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit that we may live as disciples of Christ. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our Savior. 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

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:12-15)

Response

A Debtor to Mercy Alone
A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offering to bring.
The terrors of law and of God
With me can have nothing to do;
My Savior's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view

The work which His goodness began,
The arm of His strength will complete;
His promise is yes and amen,
And never was forfeited yet.
Things future, nor things that are now,
Not all things below nor above
Can make Him His purpose forego,
Or sever my soul from His love.

My name from the palms of His hands
Eternity will not erase;
Impressed on His heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end shall endure,
As sure as the earnest is given
More happy, but not more secure,
The glorified spirits in heaven.

The Word of God

Scripture Readings

Psalm 95
John 5:19-29
Revelation 3:14-22

Message

“Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church That Lives by Lies”

Announcements

Refiner's Fire

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold

[Chorus]

Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within and make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within

[Chorus]

Benediction

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.”
(Isaiah 55:1-3)

- For peace and the cessation of violence and war in the nation of Ukraine in light of Russia's unprovoked invasion
- For the genocide against the Uyghur people in China to stop
- For Kingsway Chapel, the Korean-speaking church that meets in our building on Sunday evenings. A number of their members and attenders either moved back to Korea or left the church during the year and a half they were on Zoom due to COVID-19, and they are now looking to reach out and build relationships with new potential members
- For Mattie and Heidi van der Swaagh as they prepare for the birth of twins
- For three couples in our fellowship that have recently become engaged: Nate Harp and Jennifer Yu; Trevor Agatsuma and Grace Choi; Pat Quiroga Yupangui and Katelyn Bryant
- For Kirk and Barbara van der Swaagh as they travel to Scotland to meet with future teammates
- *COVID-19 has not gone away, so pray . . .*
- 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
 - 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 FEBRUARY:

- When believers convert from Islam, or tribal gods, they often face rejection from their family and excommunication from their village or tribe. Believers are often forced to stand before their families or community to be repeatedly told to recant their faith or else. Yet they stand firm for Christ.

China:

- Christians in unregistered house churches are monitored and subject to arrest, jail, and sometimes harsher punishments. Pray for courage and strength among believers to continue to confess Christ.

Central African Republic:

- At age 12 Charlotte would sneak off to church whenever she could. Her father told her to stop, threatening to marry her to a Muslim that he might end her disobedience. This is common in majority Muslim nations. Pray for the protection of girls in the throes of this kind of brutal pressure to abandon their faith.

The Bible urges believers to love one another and to serve their neighbors. But in many places the challenge is made more difficult when neighbors turn on the Christian or when they turn in their Christian neighbors for government awards. When animosity comes from the government, believers live at risk.

Muslim Majority Countries:

- Pray for pastors and leaders in places like Iran, who risk torture and imprisonment when they refuse to cooperate with authorities to become spies. Pray for their protection and strength.
- Pray for solid, calm faith among Christians in hostile countries as they watch the people around them turn angrily toward them. May they show the love of Christ to help defuse the situations.
- Believers in many countries must keep their faith in secret risk or arrest and perhaps even a death sentence. Such isolation of Christians has led to a powerful yearning to share their faith with the people in their lives.
- Believers from Muslim backgrounds in Bangladesh are facing new realities under sharia law that would mean violent punishment for leaving Islam. Uphold them in prayer as they face uncertain times.
- A new believer was beaten and jailed for sharing the gospel with another brother who converted to Christianity from Islam. After his release from jail his parents and siblings threw him out of the house, and his village forced him to leave because of his faith in Jesus. He now has no stable income to provide for his family, even as they continue to seek opportunities to minister the gospel to others in their life together. Pray for provision and protection.
- In Brunei, pastors and congregations are prohibited from evangelizing. Ask God to supernaturally open ways for them to bring others to him.
- In Afghanistan, pray for believers in hiding from the Taliban. They have little food, they desire to worship God with their brothers and sisters but this is not possible when they must be afraid of being caught and killed on the spot. Matthew 5:8

When persecution becomes extreme, many people flee their home country only to move into refugee camps or similar uncertain situation. Pray for these fellow believers who have been forced to leave

everything.

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 at Greenwich House Music School, online using the above link

This Week

- Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30pm on Zoom (Tim Keller's "How to Reach the West Again," available as a PDF online)

Upcoming

- March 4th, First Friday Jazz, sets @ 8pm & 9:30pm
- Worship back at our building (269 Bleecker Street) on Sunday, March 13th

Contact

Phone: 212.691.1770

Mail: 269 Bleecker St., New York NY 10014

Email: ncgv@ncgvnyc.com

Website: ncgvnyc.com

Sermons: sermonaudio.com/solo/ncgv

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

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



Neighborhood Church is a member of the
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference