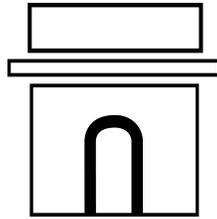


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am



“I abandoned you, O Lord, to pursue the lower things of your creation...My sin consisted in this, that I sought pleasure, transcendence, and truth not in God but in his creatures, in myself and other created beings. So it was that I plunged into miseries, confusions, and errors...[But now] I thank you for your gifts.”

–Augustine, *Confessions*, Book 1

“The human heart is a perpetual factory of idols. Every one of us is, from his mother’s womb, an expert in inventing idols.”
–John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* 1.11.8

5/7/23

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 His grace,

Nick Nowalk, Pastor

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you

Congregation: *And also with you*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship | *Psalm 4*

Opening Prayer

Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Confession of Faith | *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling

Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling

Chorus:

*O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today, there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes, a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bridge:

Oh, what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful?
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you found

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

Corporate Confession

O Lord our God,
Grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;
that desiring you,
we may seek and find you;
and finding you we may love you;
and loving you we may hate those sins from which you have redeemed us;
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen. (*St. Anselm*)

Silent Personal Confession

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)

Response

Give Me Jesus

In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
Give me Jesus

Refrain:

*Give me Jesus
give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus*

When I am alone
When I am alone
When I am alone
Give me Jesus

When I come to die
When I come to die
When I come to die
Give me Jesus

The Word of God & Sacrament

Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:4-17 (*Ji Yang*)
Deuteronomy 4:1-14 (*Nate Harp*)
Deuteronomy 4:15-31 (*Jennifer Harp*)

Message

Idolatry: The Treachery of Images

The Table of the Lord

"Can God spread a table in the wilderness?...You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies."

Words of Institution
Distribution & Reflection
Doxology
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Our Response to God's Grace

Intercessory Prayer

Announcements

Heart of Worship/Nothing Else
I'm caught up in Your presence
I just want to sit here at Your feet
I'm caught up in this holy moment
I never wanna leave

When the music fades
And all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship

And it's all about You

It's all about You, Jesus

I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it

When it's all about You

It's all about You, Jesus

King of endless worth

No one could express

How much You deserve

Though I'm weak and poor

All I have is Yours

Every single breath

Benediction

"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols." (1 John 5:20-21)

PRAYER

- That God would open up a new, larger location for us to worship in on Sunday mornings in lower Manhattan
- For our new Pastoral Search Committee as they begin looking to identify a second pastor for NCGV
- We are thankful to God that Dan Cowles is back home and doing well after an overnight stay in the hospital. Pray for recovery and ongoing good health
- For Temitope Ali and his family as they grieve the tragic loss of his younger brother in a car accident
- Pray for Jingwen Zhang as she prepares to move to Dallas to begin her residency after medical school
- Pray for healing for Megan as she receives ongoing cancer treatments
- For Kirk and Barbara van der Swaagh as they serve as missionaries in Scotland
- 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; Manjari R., a cross-cultural worker serving the peoples of Lebanon and Syria; Noel Chou with Wycliffe Bible Translators; 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

FOR MAY:

1.) Algeria

- Islam is the official religion and evangelism by Christians is outlawed. Converts to Christianity can be charged with a crime, as well as face significant family and community pressure. Pray that the Lord would protect His people under His mighty wings.
- Slimane was outspoken about his faith in Jesus and was sentenced to five years in prison. He then sought asylum in Tunisia but was kidnapped and returned to Algeria. It was reported he received an additional three years for undermining national unity. Pray that the light of God's grace shines brightly for him and through him as he endures this unjust punishment.

2.) Afghanistan

- It is the expressly stated desire of the Taliban to eradicate Christianity from Afghanistan. Pray for the safety of all Christians and their protection—and that the Spirit would miraculously and powerfully work through these trials and difficulties to multiply the fruit of the gospel in more and more lives, in spite of the intentions of evil men.

3.) Somalia

- Becoming a Christian can mean execution. There are only a small number of believers worshipping in secret and in constant fear of being discovered and punished. Even outside humanitarian groups are prevented from working there. Please pray for all believers and for Christian and non-Christian aid workers, for their safety.

4.) Kenya

- In eastern Kenya Muslims who convert to Christianity are often targeted for violence. The extremist group al-Shabaab intentionally seeks to murder ex-Muslim believers. Pray that our brothers and sisters would exemplify grace, courage and steadfast love to their persecutors.

5.) Nigeria

- This nation is home to 89% of the Christians martyred in the entire world last year. There are countless atrocities of Christians being targeted for kidnapping and murder. Recently a group of Fulani Muslim militants stormed into the streets, attacking without discrimination and killing many. Please stand in the gap for these courageous Christians who face such injustice and trauma, as well as for friends and family who have lost loved ones.

6.) India

- Persecutions have significantly escalated recently, with pastors in particular being targeted. Churches have been burned down, and the property of believers has been confiscated on multiple occasions. Please pray for new Christians who have converted from Hinduism, who often face ostracization and even death from extremists, as well as loneliness as social ties are taken away from them. Pray for strong fellowship in Christian communities.

7.) Iran

- Believers are speaking out against the executions of activists, and exposing human rights violations. Pray for them as they take the risk of bringing to the light much of the darkness of their leaders and government.

8.) Ukraine

- Christians have been specifically targeted for some time by Russian troops. The Russian Orthodox Church views the church in Ukraine as an illegitimate, rogue breakaway group, thus implicitly authorizing damage done against this “apostate” people. More than 500 sacred sites have been looted, damaged or destroyed. Many Christian leaders have been tortured or killed in the war so far, specifically targeted and singled out. Among those imprisoned there are many reports of food and water deprivation and rape. Pray that God would rise up.

9.) Eritrea

- Earlier this month, Eritrean police raided a group of Christian college students who had gathered to worship and record video clips for social media. Release International reported that 103 Christians, mainly students, were arrested in the crackdown. The raid took place in the capital, Asmara, and those arrested were taken to Mai Serwa prison. There are now more than 500 Christian prisoners detained indefinitely without trial in Eritrea. The prison where the students were taken, Mai Serwa, is notorious for its harsh conditions, overcrowding, and poor treatment of inmates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For activities on zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/ngvzoom>

Upcoming

- NCGV Small Groups meet weekly! Lower Manhattan (Tuesdays), Queens/LIC (Wednesdays), & UWS/West Harlem (Wednesdays). Email nick.nowalk@gmail.com if you are interested in checking out a small group.
- Next monthly congregational meeting: Sunday, May 7th @ 1pm (pastoral search update)
- Conversation About Dating & Singleness: Friday, May 12th @ 7pm at 269 Bleecker Street
- NCGV Women’s Dinner: Saturday evening, May 13th @ Mary Sue Daoud’s place (Astoria, Queens)
- **Special “Test Drive” service on Sunday, May 21st @ 2pm at St. Paul’s German Evangelical Lutheran Church (315 W. 22nd Street in Chelsea, between 8th & 9th Ave)**
- **Congregational meeting: Sunday, May 28th @ 1pm to discuss new location**
- Summer PRAYER & WORSHIP nights at NCGV: Mondays at 7pm (May 15, June 3, 19, July 1, 31)

Giving

There are four ways to give to Neighborhood Church:

- Cash or checks dropped into the offering box at the worship service
- Checks mailed to: Neighborhood Church, 269 Bleecker Street, New York NY 10014
- PayPal donations via this link: [paypal.me/ngv](https://www.paypal.me/ngv)
- Zelle or Venmo transfers to 201-988-1044

Contact

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Email: ngv@ngvnyc.com

Website: ngvnyc.com

Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles

