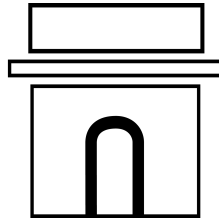


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 2pm @ 315 W. 22nd Street (St. Paul's German Lutheran Church)

“Frightful must it be, for supremely frightful would be the effect of any human endeavor to mock the stupendous mechanism of the Creator of the world.”

-Mary Shelley, author's introduction to *Frankenstein* (1831)

“In the literature of Scripture, wisdom is, broadly speaking, the knowledge of God's world and the knack of fitting oneself into it. The wise person knows creation. She knows its boundaries and limits, understands its laws and rhythms, discerns its times and seasons, respects its great dynamics. She understands that creation possesses its own integrity and significance quite apart from her claim on it and quite apart from any possibility that creation will make her happy. The wise person gives in to creation and to God—and she does the first because she does the second. She knows that the earth is the Lord's, and so is its fullness. She knows that wisdom itself is the Lord's, and so is its fullness. She knows some of the deep grains and textures of the world because she knows some of the ways and habits of its maker. In the biblical view, the wise are righteous and the righteous are wise: these are people who love and fear God, affirm God's world, live gladly within its borders, and make music there according to divine time and key signatures. The wise are always 'in order.' Insofar as they live right, they also live well...

Wisdom is a reality-based phenomenon. To be wise is to know reality, to discern it. A discerning person notices things, attends to things, picks up on things...Discernment is a mark of wisdom: it shows a kind of attentive respect for reality.

The discerning person notices the difference between things but also the connections between them. She knows creation—what God has put together and what God has kept asunder—and can therefore spot the fractures and alloys introduced by human violation of it...The really discerning person, the one whose discernment marks genuine wisdom, does not merely inspect reality or analyze it: the one who discerns also loves. She possesses what Jonathan Edwards called 'benevolence to being in general.' At some level, she affirms the reality she knows and even commits herself to it...To be wise is to know and affirm reality, to discern it, and then to speak and act accordingly. The wise accommodate themselves to reality. They go with the flow. They tear along the perforated line. They attempt their harvests in season...

“The shortest and clearest way to state the relation between sin and folly is to say that not all folly is sin, but all sin is folly.

Sin is both wrong and dumb. Indeed, wherever the follies are playing, sin is the main event. Sin is the world's most impressive example of folly. What is it that makes sin so foolish? Sin is the wrong recipe for good health; sin is the wrong gasoline to put in the tank; sin is the wrong road to take in order to get home. In other words, sin is fully futile...A proud person tries to reinvent reality. He tries to redraw the borders of human behavior to suit himself, displacing God as the

Lord and boundary keeper of life. At bottom, the fool is out of touch with reality. For, of course, our wills are not sovereign. We are not really our own centers, anchors, or lawgivers. We have not made ourselves, cannot keep ourselves, cannot ultimately oblige or forgive ourselves. The image of ourselves as center of the world is fantasy—perhaps, in its sheer detachment from reality, even a form of madness.”

-Cornelius Plantinga Jr., *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*

6/18/23

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

WELCOME

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship | *Psalm 19*

Opening Prayer

Song

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name

In the land that is plentiful

Where Your streams of abundance flow

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name

When I'm found in the desert place

Though I walk through the wilderness

Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out

I'll turn back to praise

When the darkness closes in, Lord

Still I will say

[Chorus]

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name

When the sun's shining down on me

When the world's all as it should be

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name

On the road marked with suffering

Though there's pain in the offering

Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out

I'll turn back to praise

When the darkness closes in, Lord

Still I will say *[Chorus]*

You give and take away

You give and take away

My heart will choose to say

Lord, blessed be Your name *[Chorus]*

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;
who was conceived by 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.

The third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
From there 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.

Song

God I Look To You / Come Thou Fount

God I look to You
I won't be overwhelmed
Give me vision
To see things like You do

God I look to You
You're where my help comes from
Give me wisdom
You know just what to do

[Chorus]

*And I will love You, Lord my strength
And I will love You, Lord my shield
And I will love You, Lord my rock
Forever all my days, I will love You God*

Hallelujah our God reigns
Hallelujah our God reigns
Hallelujah our God reigns
Forever all my days, Hallelujah

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

Corporate Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Personal Confession

Assurance of Grace

“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham.” (Leviticus 26:40-42)

Response

What a Beautiful Name

Hallelujah our God reigns
Hallelujah our God reigns
Hallelujah our God reigns
Forever all my days, Hallelujah

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You could have had heaven without us
But Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign

Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is (x2)
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

The Word of God & Sacrament

Scripture Readings

1 Kings 4:20-34 (*Andy Chae*)
Proverbs 8:22-36 (*Amy Chryst*)
1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5 (*Jonah Saltzman*)

Message

Wisdom: Tracing the Contours of Creation

Creational

Covenantal

Contextual

Curious

Counter-Cultural

Corrected

Christ-Centered

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

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, and I Thy true child
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

"Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." So let no one boast in human beings. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's." (1 Corinthians 3:18-23)

PRAYER

- That God would open up a new, larger location for us to worship in on Sundays in lower Manhattan
- For our new Pastoral Search Committee as they seek 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 Steven Romeo for healing of his sciatica pain
- Pray for those who are preparing to leave NYC in this season (Jingwen, Chase, Silas, Nancy, Ujunwa, Alexis)
- 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; Bowersy Mission; Avail Pregnancy Help Center; Expect Hope; The Father's Heart, and Open Doors.

THE SUFFERING CHURCH

FOR JUNE:

1.) Burkina Faso

- Pastor Antoine went to his Assemblies of God church to pray and intercede for his flock. But on that night (May 15) he was murdered in an intentional strike against a shepherd/leader of the church. Let's pray for this church and his people, as well as his family—that they would remain steadfast and abounding in good work (1 Cor. 15:58)

2.) Egypt

- In the city of Qena the population includes 35% Coptic Christians, much more than the national average of 5-15%. This might lead one to think that Qena would be safer for believers, but this is not the case. This area has become a hub for overt persecution. Two sisters named Morino and Suzan, both hairdressers, were kidnapped and taken from their families. Please pray that these women are returned to their homes safely, and that God would protect the church in the midst of increasing coercive pressure to convert to Islam.

3.) Indonesia

- A church service on Sumatra Island was swarmed by a large mob. Someone choked the pastor and others forced the church members to scatter. Pray that God would heal the traumas His people experience.

4.) Malaysia

- Christians around the world are still praying for pastor Raymond Koh, who was abducted six years ago. Pray that he will be found and reunited with his family.

5.) Pakistan

- A Christian man named Yusef had his inherited land stolen from him by his tenants, who later beat him viciously and drove him away from his home. Please pray for justice and protection for ongoing persecution.

6.) Iran

- A pastor's wife named Anna Khademi is awaiting trial for charges of propaganda against the system and disturbing public opinion. Her husband Matthias is already in prison on similar charges. Let's cry out to the Lord for complete exoneration for both of them.

7.) Democratic Republic of Congo

- Rebel extremists planted a bomb during a baptism service of 60 new converts, killing 17 during what was supposed to be a joyful event. Pray for God's restorative justice and the healing of broken hearts.

8.) Ethiopia

- A Christian community is rebuilding after their homes and church were torched by Muslim extremists. May the Lord provide everything they need to start over again.

9.) Sudan

- Ahmed has been running for his life, having escaped extremists twice after his family caught him discipling 25 other Muslims. Pray that the Lord would guide him to a safe place, and that his bold ministry would continue to bear fruit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For activities on zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/ngvzoom>

Upcoming

- **Mental Health Workshop led by Jane Tsang: Sunday, June 18th @ 4pm (after the service at St. Paul's)**
- **Joint summer Bible study w/ Storefront Church on Minor Prophets: Wednesdays 7pm, June 21st**
- Summer PRAYER & WORSHIP nights at NCGV: Mondays or Saturdays at 7pm (**June 19**, July 1, 31)
- New NCGV Spanish Bible study has begun (if interested, contact Diego at dlaboy723@gmail.com)
- Interested in serving on the Hospitality Team at NCGV? Contact Josh Kim at jsk4002@med.cornell.edu

Giving

There are five ways to give to Neighborhood Church.

1. Cash or checks dropped into the offering box at the worship service
2. Checks mailed to: Neighborhood Church, 269 Bleecker Street, New York NY 10014
3. PayPal donations via this link: paypal.me/ngcv
4. Zelle transfers to: 201-988-1044
5. Venmo transfer to @Daniel-Cowles-7

Contact

Phone: 212.691.1770

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Email: ngcv@ngvnyc.com

Website: ngvnyc.com

Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles



Neighborhood Church is a member of the
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference