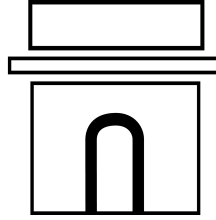


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH  
of Greenwich Village



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

“It can surely be said that the Psalter presents a struggle of the just against the unjust.”  
-Jose Miranda

“O God is there no redress, no peace, no justice in this land for us? Thou hast always fought the battles of the weak and oppressed. Come to my aid at this moment and teach me what to do, for I am sorely, bitterly disappointed.”  
-Ida B. Wells

“Isn't it a major issue that the evangelical church exists as a subcultural cul-de-sac, unable to speak the gospel intelligibly to most Americans, and is perceived to be concerned only with increasing power rather than with the common good? Of course it is. Early Christian bishops in the Roman Empire, by contrast, were so well-known for identifying with the poor and weak that eventually, though part of a minority religion, they were seen to have the right to speak for the local community as a whole. Caring for the poor and weak became, ironically, a major reason for the cultural influence the church eventually came to wield. If the church does not identify with the marginalized, it will itself be marginalized. This is God's poetic justice.”  
-Tim Keller, *Center Church*

“A just society can flourish only when its members acknowledge the justice of God, which is the justice manifested and enacted in the cross. If I do not acknowledge a justice that judges the justice for which I fight, I am an agent not of justice, but of lawless tyranny.”  
Lesslie Newbigin, *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*

7/16/23

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*Our Approach to God*

**Call to Worship** | *Micah 6:6-8*

**Opening Prayer**

**Confession of Faith** | *Heidelberg Catechism*

**Q.** What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**A.** That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.  
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,  
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.  
He also watches over me in such a way  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven;  
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Jesus Christ,  
by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

## **Song**

### *Graves Into Gardens*

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade  
Are never enough  
Then You came along, and put me back together  
And every desire is now satisfied  
Here in Your love

#### *[Chorus]*

*Oh, there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You*

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness  
My failures and flaws; Lord, You've seen them all  
And You still call me friend  
The God of the mountain is the God of the valley  
There's not a place Your mercy and grace  
Won't find me again *[Chorus x2]*

You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can

You turn graves into garden  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can

## **Song**

### *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 *[Chorus]*

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen  
Bow down before him  
For he is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen *[Chorus]*

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

## **Song**

*Still*

Hide me now  
Under Your wings  
Cover me  
Within Your mighty hand

*[Chorus]*

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar  
I will soar with You above the storm  
Father, You are King over the flood  
I will be still, know You are God*

Find rest, my soul  
In Christ alone  
Know His power  
In quietness and trust

## **Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace**

*"Those who do not think about their own sins make up for it by thinking incessantly about the sins of others."  
-C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock**

### **Corporate Confession**

O most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who pardons all who truly repent and turn to You: we humbly confess our sins and ask for Your mercy. We have not loved You with all our heart, soul, and strength; neither have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness; according to Your great and tender compassion, blot out our iniquity. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may live a holy, just and humble life, for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

### **Silent Personal Confession**

#### **Assurance of Grace**

*"If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared."* (Psalm 130:3-4)

## **Announcements**

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*The Word of God & Sacrament*

## **Scripture Readings**

Psalm 82

## **Message**

Prophetic Spirituality: No Acceptable Worship Without Justice

## **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

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*Our Response to God's Grace*

## **Song**

*Still*

Hide me now  
Under Your wings  
Cover me  
Within Your mighty hand

*[Chorus]*

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar  
I will soar with You above the storm  
Father, You are King over the flood  
I will be still, know You are God*

Find rest, my soul  
In Christ alone  
Know His power  
In quietness and trust

### **Song**

*You Have Shown Us*  
You have shown us, oh God, what is good  
You have shown us, oh Lord, what You require  
You have heard all our songs  
How we long to worship You  
Yeah, You've told us the offering You desire

*[Chorus]*

*To do justice and to love mercy  
And to walk humbly with You, God  
You said, to do justice and to love mercy  
And to walk humbly with You, God*

You have shown us the riches of Your love  
And You have shown us Your heart for those in need  
Lord, You're opening our ears to the cries of the poor  
You have called us to be Your hand and feet *[Chorus]*

To the oppressed and the broken  
To the widow and the orphan  
Let the river of Your justice flow through us  
To the oppressed and the broken  
To the widow and the orphan  
Let the river of Your justice flow through us

### **Intercessory Prayers of the People**

#### **Benediction**

*“Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy, deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82:3-4)*

#### **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.*

### **PRAYER**

- 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**

#### **1.) Nigeria**

- Reverend Hyuk and his two sons were murdered after the Nigerian election. Four more Christians were killed in secret and buried in mass graves. Please pray.

## 2.) Laos

- In Northwest Laos 15 families were driven out of their homes because of their conversion to Christianity. Pray that the Lord will provide for and protect them.

## 3.) East Africa

- Soon after a brother converted to Christianity from Islam he began to share his faith with friends, leading three of them to Christ. He experienced heartbreaking loss when his wife was kidnapped by her family and forcibly married to a Muslim man under the threat of death. Please intercede for her release and restoration.

## 4.) Democratic Republic of Congo

- In a predominantly Christian community an Islamic terrorist group murdered 36 people in an overnight attack. The believers were killed with machetes or trapped inside of their burning homes. Ask the Lord to protect His people from these attacks and to comfort the grieving and brokenhearted.

## 5.) Northern Kenya

- A drought that spanned several seasons is causing widespread starvation and death. Many people no longer have enough food and water to feed students in schools. Many are dropping out. Ask the Lord to bring rain and sustain the people of Kenya.

## 6.) Burkina Faso

- This remains one of the most dangerous countries for Christians, and things were recently made worse after a military coup. Islamic groups have burned churches and abducted women and children. Pray for God's protection over His children.

## 7.) India

- Violent riots recently took place in Manipur, leaving thousands of Christians displaced. Christians make up only 2.5 percent of the population. Please pray for them, and especially those who have been more especially targeted: pastors and women. Let's lift up our voices on behalf of our brothers and sisters.

## 8.) Pakistan

- Christians are often given the lowest jobs of brick laying for little money for their hard work and long hours. Please pray that the injustices done to our fellow members of the body of Christ would be brought to an end.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Joint summer Bible study w/ Storefront Church on Minor Prophets: Wednesdays @ 7pm (St. Paul's)
- **NCGV Congregational Meeting: Sunday, July 23rd at 4pm at St. Paul's**
- Summer PRAYER & WORSHIP nights at NCGV: Monday, July 31st @ 7pm
- Interested in serving on the Hospitality Team at NCGV? Contact Josh Kim at [jsk4002@med.cornell.edu](mailto: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](https://paypal.me/ngcv)
4. Zelle transfers to: 201-988-1044
5. Venmo transfer to @Daniel-Cowles-7

## Contact

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Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles

*New to Neighborhood Church?* Sign up for NCGV's email list here:

