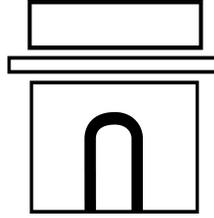


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



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

“Cheap grace is the mortal enemy of our church. Our struggle today is for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace as bargain-basement goods, cut-rate forgiveness, cut-rate comfort, cut-rate sacrament; grace as the church’s inexhaustible pantry, from which it is doled out by careless hands without hesitation or limit. It is grace without a price, without costs...Cheap grace means grace as doctrine, as principle, as system...The world finds in this church a cheap cover-up for its sins, for which it shows no remorse and from which it has even less desire to be set free. Cheap grace is, thus, denial of God’s living word, denial of the incarnation of the word of God. Cheap grace means justification of sin but not of the sinner...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without the living, incarnate Jesus Christ...[But true grace] is costly, because it calls to discipleship; it is grace, because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly, because it costs people their lives; it is grace because it thereby makes them live. It is costly, because it condemns sin; it is grace, because it justifies the sinner. Above all, grace is costly, because it was costly to God, because it costs God the life of God’s Son—‘you were bought with a price’—and because nothing can be cheap to us which is costly to God...The word of cheap grace has ruined more Christians than any commandment about works.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

“Whoever, therefore, thinks that he understands the divine Scriptures or any part of them in such a way that it [i.e., my interpretation] does not build up the double love of God and of our neighbor does not understand [the Scriptures] at all.”

-Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*

“Christian ethics must arise from the gospel of Jesus Christ...A belief in Christian ethics is a belief that certain ethical and moral judgments belong to the gospel itself; a belief, in other words, that the church can be committed to ethics without moderating the tone of its voice as a bearer of glad tidings.”

-Oliver O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order: An Outline for Evangelical Ethics*

7/30/23

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Confession of Faith | *Colossians 1:15-20*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

For in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and unto him.

And he is before all things.

And in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the church.

Jesus Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that in everything he might be preeminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile unto himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Song*Speak O Lord*

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us, Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of pow'r that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace, we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith, we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Song*Christ Is Mine Forevermore*

Mine are days that God has numbered
I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall, His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow
Darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from Heaven
And the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted
Christ completes his work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger
Pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name
But mine is armor for this battle
Strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore

[Chorus]

*And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore*

[Bridge]

Come rejoice now, O my soul
For His love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure
Christ is mine forevermore

Song

Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
And I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

[Chorus]

*Christ alone, cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm
He is Lord, Lord of all*

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless, stand before the throne

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

The Word of God & Sacrament

Scripture Readings

Psalm 111 (*Mary Sue Daoud*)
Psalm 112 (*Ebuka Imachukwu*)

Message

Grace & Good Works: Let No One Separate What God Has Joined Together

The Table of the Lord

“We would most profoundly misunderstand the Eucharist, however, if we thought of it only as a sacrament of God’s embrace of which we are simply the fortunate beneficiaries. Inscribed on the very heart of God’s grace is the rule that we can be its recipients only if we do not resist being made into its agents; what happens to us must be done by us. Having been embraced by God, we must make space for others in ourselves and invite them in—even our enemies.”

-Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*

Words of Institution

Distribution

Reflection: *Bach Prelude and Fugue in B flat Minor BWV 867, WTC I*

Our Response to God's Grace

Song

All The Way My Savior Leads Me

All the way my Savior leads me; what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my guide?
Heav’nly peace, divinest comfort here by faith in Him to dwell
For I know whate’er befall me Jesus doeth all things well
For I know whate’er befall me Jesus doeth all things well

All the way my Savior leads me; cheers each winding path I tread
Gives me grace for ev’ry trial, feeds me with the living bread
Though my weary steps may falter and my soul a-thirst may be
Gushing from the rock before me lo! a spring of joy I see
Gushing from the rock before me lo! a spring of joy I see

All the way my Savior leads me; O the fullness of His love
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father’s house above
When my spirit, clothed, immortal wings its flight to realms of day
This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way
This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way

Intercessory Prayers of the People

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.*

Benediction

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” (James 1:22-25)

PRAYER

- For deacons & elders in training at NCGV, that God would raise up faithful leaders in our community always
- 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

- Summer PRAYER & WORSHIP nights at NCGV: Monday, July 31st @ 7pm
- Fill out the *NCGV Volunteer Survey* (pick up a copy after church, or check your email!)
- 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](https://www.paypal.me/ngcv)
4. Zelle transfers to: 201-988-1044
5. Venmo transfer to @Daniel-Cowles-7

Contact

Phone: 212.691.1770

Mail: 269 Bleecker St., New York NY 10014

Email: ngcv@ngcvnyc.com

Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles

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

