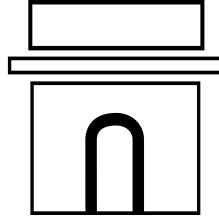


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“It [Exodus 34:6-7] is much less well known...Probably many Christians are completely unfamiliar with it. This is regrettable, not only because it is one of the most important passages in the whole Bible but also because among many Christians there are serious misconceptions about the character of God in the Old Testament that proper attention to this key moment of revelation could correct. The popular notion that the God of the Hebrew Bible is characterized by vengeance and wrath, while the God of the New Testament is, by contrast, a God of love is a travesty that deserves to be vigorously refuted. It certainly cannot survive attention to the definitive account of God’s character that was given to Moses at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 34...It provides in fact the fullest description of God’s character to be found anywhere in the Bible. It probably tells us more about God than does anything else in the Old Testament.”

Richard Bauckham, *Who Is God? Key Moments of Biblical Revelation*

“Evil rolls across the ages, but so does good. Good has its own momentum. Corruption never wholly succeeds. (Even blasphemers acknowledge God.) Creation is stronger than sin and grace stronger still. Creation and grace are anvils that have worn out a lot of our hammers. To speak of sin by itself, to speak of it apart from the realities of creation and grace, is to forget the resolve of God. God wants shalom and will pay any price to get it back. Human sin is stubborn, but not as stubborn as the grace of God and not half so persistent, not half so ready to suffer to win its way. Moreover, to speak of sin by itself is to misunderstand its nature: sin is only a parasite, a vandal, a spoiler. Sinful life is a partly depressing, partly ludicrous caricature of genuine human life. To concentrate on our rebellion, defection, and folly—to say to the world, ‘I have some bad news and I have some bad news’--is to forget that the center of the Christian religion is not our sin but our Savior. To speak of sin without grace is to minimize the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the fruit of the Spirit, and the hope of shalom.

But to speak of grace without sin is surely no better. To do this is to trivialize the cross of Jesus Christ, to skate past all the struggling by good people down the ages to forgive, accept, and rehabilitate sinners, including themselves, and therefore to cheapen the grace of God that always comes to us with blood on it. What had we thought the ripping and writhing on Golgotha were all about? To speak of grace without looking squarely at these realities, without painfully honest acknowledgment of our own sin and its effects, is to shrink grace to a mere embellishment of the music of creation, to shrink it down to a mere grace note. In short, for the Christian church to ignore, euphemize, or otherwise mute the lethal reality of sin is to cut the nerve of the gospel. For the sober truth is that without full disclosure on sin, the gospel of grace becomes impertinent, unnecessary, and finally uninteresting.”

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

7.31.22

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,

Nick Nowalk, Pastor

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 31

Question 83

What are the keys of the kingdom?

The preaching of the holy gospel and Christian discipline toward repentance. Both of them open the kingdom of heaven to believers and close it to unbelievers.

Question 84

How does preaching the holy gospel open and close the kingdom of heaven?

According to the command of Christ, The kingdom of heaven is opened by proclaiming and publicly declaring to all believers, each and every one, that, as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith, God, because of Christ's merit, truly forgives all their sins.

The kingdom of heaven is closed, however, by proclaiming and publicly declaring to unbelievers and hypocrites that, as long as they do not repent, the wrath of God and eternal condemnation rest on them. God's judgment, both in this life and in the life to come, is based on this gospel testimony.

Question 85

How is the kingdom of heaven closed and opened by Christian discipline?

According to the command of Christ: Those who, though called Christians, profess unchristian teachings or live unchristian lives, and who after repeated personal and loving admonitions, refuse to abandon their errors and evil ways, and who after being reported to the church, that is, to those ordained by the church for that purpose, fail to respond also to the church's admonitions—such persons the church excludes from the Christian community by withholding the sacraments from them, and God also excludes them from the kingdom of Christ. Such persons, when promising and demonstrating genuine reform, are received again as members of Christ and of his church.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Psalm 145

- 1 I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- 2 Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.
- 4 One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty,

and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!
11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
12 to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
[The Lord is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.]
14 The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
16 You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.
18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
20 The Lord preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Opening Prayer

Hymn

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

[Chorus]

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

And when I think, that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. *[Chorus]*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home; what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And then proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!" [*Chorus x2*]

Confession of Faith | *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice!

[Chorus]

*Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come let us adore Him!
Behold our King, nothing can compare.
Come let us adore Him!*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds? [*Chorus*]

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave.
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign! [*Chorus x2*]

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

"While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly." (Ezra 10:1)

Corporate Confession

Almighty and ever living God, you raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have been slow to believe, and have not joyfully acknowledged his rule over us as we should. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him our whole lives. Forgive us, O God, and raise us from our sin, that we may be your faithful people, knowing the joy of Easter triumph and walking in newness of life. Grant us the power of the resurrection to live holy lives, free from sin, and to follow in the mission he gave us; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, 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 the evil one.

Assurance of Grace

"Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity, and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath. He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again." (Psalm 78:38-39)

Response

O Praise the Name

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

[Chorus]

*O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forevermore
For endless days, we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

Then on the third, at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death, where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King *[Chorus]*

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face *[Chorus x2]*

Oh Lord, oh Lord our God
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

The Word of God & Sacrament

Scripture Readings

Exodus 34:1-9 (*Arturo Villanueva*)
Numbers 14:1-19 (*Joy Cho*)
Joel 2:10-27 (*Dan Cowles*)

Message

Crisis in the Wilderness: The Most Important Thing Israel Ever Learned About God

(Exodus 20:5-7, 34:6-7, Numbers 14:18, Deuteronomy 5:9-11, 7:9-10, 2 Kings 13:23, 2 Chronicles 30:9, Isaiah 63:7, Jeremiah 32:18, Lamentations 3:31-33, Hosea 2:19-20, Joel 2:12-14, Jonah 4:1-3, Micah 7:18-20, Nahum 1:2-3, Nehemiah 1:5, 9:16-17, 30-32, Daniel 9:4, Psalm 69:16, 77:7-9, 78:37-38, 86:5, 15, 99:8, 103:7-13, 106:44-46, 145:8, John 1:17)

The Table of the Lord

"Let a person examine himself...and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Words of Institution

Distribution

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

Prayers of Intercession

Announcements

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Wonderful, merciful Savior

Precious Redeemer and Friend

Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men

Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper

Spirit we long to embrace

You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost our way

Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way

[Chorus]

You are the One that we praise

You are the One we adore

You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for

Oh, our hearts always hunger for

Almighty, infinite Father

Faithfully loving Your own

Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne

Oh, we're falling before Your throne *[Chorus x2]*

Benediction

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness...The Lord will not cast off forever, but though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he does not afflict from his heart, or grieve the children of men." (Lamentations 3:22-23, 31-33)

PRAYER

- 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 Chantal Kim, who (praise God!) had a successful surgery to remove a large sarcoma on Thursday. She now faces a long recovery process. Pray for healing, and that cancer never spreads in her body in the future
- For Rosita's neighbor Junior, who is undergoing surgery for throat cancer, and Rosita's sister Perseus, who has again been hospitalized
- For Nancy Jiang as she begins to apply to medical schools, that God would open the right door (in NYC!)
- For the Chungs as they prepare to move to Boston for work (Richard) and to finish law school (Nayeon)
- For Sam van der Swaagh as he pursues a career as a data analyst
- For Grace Jeon, as she returns home to San Diego to study for the LSAT exam in October
- For Manjari R., a young missionary in an Arabic-speaking nation in the MENA region (Middle East/North Africa) who is beginning her long-term ministry there. Pray for Manjari for: (1) finding a long-term missions team in her region as her first initial term of service comes to a conclusion, (2) ongoing financial support to remain on the field in the years to come, (3) favor and blessing over relationships with cousins (non-Christians) to be invited deeper into community with local friends, (4) grace & wisdom in language-training and cultural adaptation
- For three couples in our fellowship that have recently become engaged: Nate Harp and Jennifer Yu; Trevor Agatsuma and Grace Choi; Max Martin and Jessica Samuel
- For Kirk and Barbara van der Swaagh as they prepare to move to 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; the ministry of Hope Academy; Do for One; Bowers 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 AUGUST:

Nigeria

- Daily violence against and kidnappings of Christians is a continuing trend. 13 Christians per day, 372 per month on average are taken by force from their families and communities. Pray for the church and for its pastors, that God would bring protection, encouragement and resilience in the face of such injustice and suffering.

North Korea

- Dozens of North Korean Christians were arrested and shot at a secret worship service. Later their families were rounded up and arrested, sent to political prisons to make an example to discourage others.
- Please pray for two men involved in a safe house ministry in China for North Koreans who cross the border. They are struggling with health issues and were recently arrested. Pray for endurance and that their ministry would continue to bear fruit and providing a refuge for North Koreans who are able to escape their home country.

Eritrea

- Church leaders and believers are targets for extremists. Pray for boldness and courage for our brother and sisters as they face regular hardship and opposition.

Kyrgyzstan

- A brother and sister had to flee their home because their father physically attacked them for their faith in Jesus. Pray for believers who must choose between their earthly family and the family of God
- A Christian man was denied the right to bury his brother or attend his mother's funeral because he is a believer. He has been driven away from his village and exiled. Lift up the many who face outrageous abuse and the many painful moments they have to endure.

Iraq

- A new believer was found murdered by her family members because of her conversion. Ask the Lord to produce outrage against such honor killings, so that they no longer tolerated or even considered.

Africa

- Many countries in Africa are dominated by a militant wing of Islam. Christian believers are expelled from their families when they respond to the gospel, and subsequently grieve and lament the loss of connections and closeness to their family and friends. Pray that God would build up His people to be a family that can withstand such pressures, and that He would protect pastors and leaders who are often specifically targeted.

India

- Christians here have faced increasing persecution over the past four years. Many incidents have been sparked by Hindu nationalists who oppose any non-Hindu influence in India. Please pray for the gospel to grow in influence and acceptance in this culture. Believers often have no legal or practical recourse when they are attacked.

Ephesians. 6:18; 2 Timothy 3:12; Galatians 6:9-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For activities on zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/ngvzoom>

This Week

- Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30pm on Zoom (sermon Q & A)

Upcoming

- Monthly Members' Meeting on Sunday, July 31st @ 1pm
- Interested in Membership at NCGV? Open forum with Q & A on Sunday, August 7th @ 1pm
- NCGV Summer Social hosted by Lily Kim in Brooklyn: Saturday, August 13th (details coming soon)
- Joint Sunday evening worship & prayer with Gallery & Storefront Churches: Sunday, August 21st @ 6pm. Location is Avenues: The World School (259 10th Ave)
- Saturday, August 26th (7:30-11:30am), volunteer with food pantry & soup kitchen @ Father's Heart (545 E 11th St). Contact Kristen to sign up: ngvvolunteer@gmail.com

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
- Zelle or Venmo transfers to 201-988-1044

Contact

Phone: 212.691.1770

Mail: 269 Bleecker St., New York NY 10014

Email: ngv@ngvnyc.com

Website: ngvnyc.com

Sermons: sermonaudio.com/solo/ngv

Pastor: 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