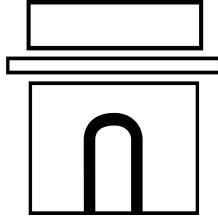


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting online @ 10:30am

“Until the day when God shall deign to reveal the future to man, all human wisdom is summed up in these two words:
wait and hope.”

Alexandre Dumas, final words of *The Count of Monte Cristo*

“What is suffering? When something prized or loved is ripped away or never granted—work, someone loved, recognition of one’s dignity, life without physical pain—that is suffering. Or rather, what’s when suffering happens. What it is, I do not know...I understand nothing of it. Of pain, yes: cut fingers, broken bones. Of sorrow and suffering, nothing at all. Suffering is a mystery as deep as any in our existence. It is not of course a mystery whose reality some doubt. Suffering keeps its face hid from each while making itself known to all. We are one in suffering. Some are wealthy, some bright; some athletic, some admired. But we all suffer. For we all prize and love; and in this present existence of ours, prizing and loving yield suffering. Love in our world is suffering love. Some do not suffer much, though, for they do not love much. Suffering is for the loving. If I hadn’t loved him [his son], there wouldn’t be this agony. This, said Jesus, is the command of the Holy One: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ In commanding us to love, God invites us to suffer.”

Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Lament for a Son*

“[The gospel teaches us that] in all affliction things do not really and finally go bad for us...It is just this which the power of God brings about, that all suffering loses its desperate character.”

Rudolph Bultmann, *The Second Letter to the Corinthians*

1.23.22

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,

Kirk van der Swaagh & Nick Nowalk, Pastors

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 4

Question #9

But does God not do man an injustice by requiring in his law what man cannot do?

No, for God so created man that he was able to do it. But man, at the instigation of the devil, in deliberate disobedience robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts

Question #10

Will God allow such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished?

Certainly not. He is terribly angry with our original sin as well as our actual sins. Therefore he will punish them by a just judgment both now and eternally, as he has declared: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law' (Gal. 3:10).

Question #11

But is God not also merciful?

God is indeed merciful, but he is also just. His justice requires that sin committed against the most high majesty of God also be punished with the most severe, that is, with everlasting, punishment of body and soul.

ΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩ

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Psalm 86

- 1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
- 2 Preserve my life, for I am godly;
save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.
- 3 Be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all the day.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.
- 7 In the day of my trouble I call upon you,
for you answer me.
- 8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
- 9 All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
- 10 For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- 14 O God, insolent men have risen up against me;
a band of ruthless men seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.

15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
16 Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant,
and save the son of your maidservant.
17 Show me a sign of your favor,
that those who hate me may see and be put to shame
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Opening Prayer

Hymn

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin,
he sets the pris'ner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean,
his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosen'd tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Confession of Faith | *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and for evermore be thine.

Confession of Sin & 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)

Corporate Confession

Gracious God, we approach you mindful that we are mere creatures. Our thoughts are not hidden from your gaze. Our secret sins blaze in the light of your countenance. Enable us to remember that blood which cleanses all sin, to believe in that grace which subdues all iniquities, to resign ourselves to that power which can deliver us from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. You have begun a good work in us and you alone can continue and complete it. Give us an increasing conviction of our tendency to stray and expose ourselves to sin. If we are not right, set us right, keep us right; and may we at last come to your house in peace

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 evil.

Assurance of Grace

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (Psalm 32:1-2)

Response

Sometimes a Light Surprises

Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings;
it is the Lord, who rises with healing in his wings;
when comforts are declining, he grants the soul again
a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.

In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue
the theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new;
set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say,
"Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may."

It can bring with it nothing but he will bear us through;
who gives the lilies clothing will clothe his people too:
beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed;
and he who feeds the ravens will give his children bread.

Though vine nor fig tree neither their wonted fruit shall bear,
though all the field should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there;
yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice,
for, while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

The Word of God

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 41:1-10
1 Peter 4:12-19
Revelation 2:8-11

Message

"Smyrna: The Church That Suffers Yet Has Surprising Wealth"

Our Response to God's Grace

Prayers of Intercession

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Be Still My Soul

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then shall you better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Benediction

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 5:10-11)

ΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩ

PRAYER

- For threat of war as Russia builds up its forces on the border of the Ukraine
- For our “Glove Love” campaign to reach those who need the care
- For for the stepfather of Ashley Hoss. He had to return to the hospital for complications due to Covid.
- Continue for Eric Adams, our newly installed mayor, as well as other newly elected government officials
- *COVID-19 has not gone away, so pray . . .*
 - For the mental health of fellow New Yorkers as another winter with Covid settles in
 - For wisdom in navigating the protocols after inevitable infections that will affect not just those who have tested positive, but those who have had contact with them
 - For those serving on the frontline as EMTs, doctors, nurses, technicians, orderlies, teachers
 - For those who have lost loved ones, and for those who are gravely ill
 - Pray for the economic recovery of our city
- 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; Bowery 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 JANUARY:

Afghanistan:

This country faces an uncertain future with the Taliban planing to institute strict sharia law. Sharia law forbids any belief except Islam and takes a radical approach to all aspects of society. Though thousands have fled, millions remain and are bracing themselves for what is to come.

- Pray for all Christians that the Lord protects them from the regime. Psalm 46:1
- Pray for women and girls as they face significant restrictions under the regime. May the Lord's encouragement strengthen their hearts.
- Children are being lured into betraying their parents by exposing their parents’ Christian beliefs. This comes with tragic consequences. Pray that the children, to protect their own families, would think before they respond to bribes or threats.
- Pray that the Taliban responds to the world’s outcry against their methods of punishment and will scale back the prosecutions and intimidation of its own people.
- Pray for a powerful, miraculous outbreak of belief in Jesus, despite what seems to be a hopeless situation.

China:

This is a country with a population of 1.4 billion people. Due to one of the greatest revivals of all times there are millions of Christians living there. Though their numbers are growing our brethren still struggle.

- Christians face overt persecution. Pray that believers will be filled with wisdom and the ability to stand strong.
- Pray that the persecution believers endure will be the seeds of greater faith and result in even more believers as people observe our brothers and sisters unwavering faith in Jesus.
- Pray that God would move in a supernatural way to ease restrictions on Christians so they can gather without fear and minister to those around them free of prohibitive regulations.

Mozambique:

Militant suspected of being jihadists attacked five villages in which Christians lived. They looted the villages and burned several huts to the ground. Allegedly, they found and beheaded a pastor.

- Pray that good and peace will come from this tragic situation. Genesis 50:20; Philippians 4:7

- Pray that the Lord would make himself known to the widow and her family. May he faithfully provide for her every need. Ask the Lord to draw the local church close around them like they were his own arms.
- Pray for the congregation. May they be comforted and their faith strengthened so that they would be carried through the days and months ahead.
- Pray that the pastor's death will serve a greater kingdom purpose by driving his church and others who knew him to intentionally and deeply seek Christ. May they endure as seeing him who is invisible.

Ephesians 6:18; Deuteronomy 33:27; Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 Corinthians 5:14-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For activities on zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7756249830?pwd=N3dUU2s4Sjg3bkU5R2F3aklTZkxzZz09>

To attend Sunday worship in person:

N95 masks are required in our worship space

Today

- Worship, 10:30am, online using the above link

This Week

- Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30pm on Zoom (The Letter of James)

Prayer Meetings on Zoom

Monday 9-9:30pm

Tuesday 7:30-8:00am

Wednesday 12:30-1:00pm

Thursday 9-9:30pm

Upcoming

- January 29, Volunteer Day, Father's Heart, Contact Kristen: ncgvvolunteer@gmail.com
- January 30th: in person at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow), though Zoom will continue to be an option for those not comfortable with attending worship in person yet
- February 4, First Fridays Jazz, sets @ 8 & 9:30pm

Contact

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Sermons: sermonaudio.com/solo/ncgv

Pastors: Kirk van der Swaagh, 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