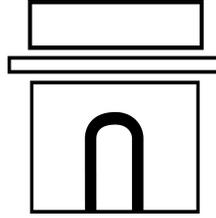


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street and online @ 10:30am

“Human kind cannot bear very much reality.”
T. S. Eliot, *The Four Quartets*

“It were an easy thing to be a Christian, if religion stood only in a few outward works and duties, but to take the soul to task, and to deal roundly with our own hearts, and to let conscience have its full work, and to bring the soul into spiritual subjection unto God, this is not so easy a matter, because the soul out of self-love is loath to enter into itself, lest it should have other thoughts of itself than it would have.”

Richard Sibbes, *The Soul's Conflict, and Victory Over Itself by Faith*

“The greatest need [of the church] and one of deepest importance is for the continual manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. I did not say theological theory about the Holy Spirit, or just intellectual understanding -- I said, the power of the Holy Spirit; that has to do with experience not words...The Holy Spirit is to the life of the Christian what the Creator is to the world. Without God the Creator the world would not exist and without His continuing, sustaining, and preserving work the world would crash out of existence. So likewise, without the Holy Spirit there would be no Christians in the world and without His continual sanctifying influence the Christian would know no spiritual growth or power.”

Ernest Reisinger, “The Church’s Greatest Need”

2.13.2022

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.

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GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM | Lord's Day 7

Question #20

Are all men, then, saved by Christ just as they perished through Adam?

No. Only those are saved who by a true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all his benefits.

Question #21

What is true faith?

True faith is a sure knowledge whereby I accept as true all that God has revealed to us in his Word. At the same time it is a firm confidence that not only to others, but also to me, God has granted forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation, out of mere grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits. The faith the Holy Spirit works in my heart by the gospel.

Question #22

What, then, must a Christian believe?

All that is promised us in the gospel, which the articles of our catholic and undoubted Christian faith teach us in a summary.

Question #23

What are these articles?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Revelation 5:1-14

1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" 14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Opening Prayer

Hymn

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

[Pre-Chorus]

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

[Pre-Chorus]

[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 | *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

He Knows My Name

I have a Maker
He formed my heart
Before even time began
My life was in his hands

[Chorus]

He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And He hears me when I call

I have a Father
He calls me His own
He'll never leave me
No matter where I go

[Chorus]

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

Almighty God, merciful Father, we, poor sinners, confess to You all our sins and iniquities that we have committed against You and which justly deserve Your holy wrath. We are truly sorry for them, and we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace found only in Christ Jesus. By his suffering and death, by his resurrection and intercession, grant us forgiveness, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You that we might forsake our sin and be led to everlasting life. 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 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

Here Is Love

Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the flood-gates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love like mighty rivers
Poured incessant from above;
Heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Here is love that conquered evil:
Christ, the firstborn from the grave;
Death has failed to be found equal
To the life of Him Who saves.
In the valley of our darkness
Dawned His everlasting light;
Perfect love in glorious radiance
Has repelled death's hellish night.

That same love beyond all measure,
Mocked and slain by hateful men,
Lives and reigns in resurrection
And can never die again.
Here is love for all the ages,
Radiant Sun of Heav'n He stands,
Calling home His Father's children,
Holding forth His wounded hands.

Here is love, vast as the heavens;
Countless as the stars above
Are the souls that He has ransomed,
Precious daughters, treasured sons.
We are called to feast forever on a love beyond our time;
Glorious Father, Son, and Spirit
Now with man are intertwined.

The Sacrament of Baptism

"We were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4

Meaning and Purpose

Presentation of Candidate: 阎璐 Lu Yan

Inquiry and Affirmation

The Sacrament

Hymn of Celebration

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the Throne of God above

I have a strong and perfect plea

A great High Priest whose name is Love

Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in Heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ, my Savior and my God
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

The Word of God

Scripture Readings

Luke 12:8-9, 35-48
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Revelation 3:1-6

Message

“Sardis: The Church That Lingers on Life Support with a Misleading Reputation”

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

Benediction

“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be exposed.” (Revelation 16:15)

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PRAY

- For the threat of war as Russia builds up its forces on the border of Ukraine
- For the genocide against the Uyghur people in China to stop
- For Mattie and Heidi van der Swaagh as they prepare for the birth of twins
- For three couples in our fellowship that have recently become engaged: Nate Harp and Jennifer Yu; Trevor Agatsuma and Grace Choi; Pat Quiroga Yupangui and Katelyn Bryant
- For Kirk and Barbara van der Swaagh as they travel to Scotland to meet with future teammates
- *COVID-19 has not gone away, so pray . . .*
 - For the schools of our city as they struggle with teacher and student absences
 - 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
 - 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 FEBRUARY:

When believers convert from Islam, or tribal gods, they often face rejection from their family and excommunication from their village or tribe. Believers are often forced to stand before their families or community to be repeatedly told to recant their faith or else. Yet they stand firm for Christ.

China:

- Christians in unregistered house churches are monitored and subject to arrest, jail, and sometimes harsher punishments. Pray for courage and strength among believers to continue to confess Christ.

Central African Republic:

- At age 12 Charlotte would sneak off to church whenever she could. Her father told her to stop, threatening to marry her to a Muslim that he might end her disobedience. This is common in majority Muslim nations. Pray for the protection of girls in the throes of this kind of brutal pressure to abandon their faith.

The Bible urges believers to love one another and to serve their neighbors. But in many places the challenge is made more difficult when neighbors turn on the Christian or when they turn in their Christian neighbors for government awards. When animosity comes from the government, believers live at risk.

Muslim Majority Countries:

- Pray for pastors and leaders in places like Iran, who risk torture and imprisonment when they refuse to cooperate with authorities to become spies. Pray for their protection and strength.
- Pray for solid, calm faith among Christians in hostile countries as they watch the people around them turn angrily toward them. May they show the love of Christ to help defuse the situations
- Believers in many countries must keep their faith in secret risk of arrest and perhaps even a death sentence. Such isolation of Christians has led to a powerful yearning to share their faith with the people in their lives.
- Believers from Muslim backgrounds in Bangladesh are facing new realities under sharia law that would mean violent punishment for leaving Islam. Uphold them in prayer as they face uncertain times.
- In Brunei, pastors and congregations are prohibited from evangelizing. Ask God to supernaturally open ways for them to bring others to him.

When persecution becomes extreme, many people flee their home country only to move into refugee camps or similar uncertain situation. Pray for these fellow believers who have been forced to leave everything.

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:

Masks are required in our worship space

Today

- Worship, 10:30am at Greenwich House Music School, online using the above link

This Week

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

Upcoming

- February 4th, First Friday Jazz, sets @ 8pm & 9:30pm
- February 6th, 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

Contact

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Website: ncgvnyc.com

Sermons: sermonaudio.com/solo/ncgv

Pastors: Kirk van der Swaagh, Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles

Prayer Meetings on Zoom

Monday 9-9:30pm

Tuesday 7:30-8:00am

Wednesday 12:30-1:00pm

Thursday 9-9:30pm

Please take a moment to let us know you're here:



Neighborhood Church is a member of the
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference