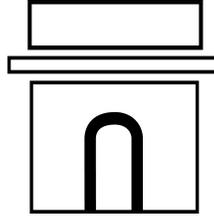


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“The word of the church to the world must therefore encounter the world in all its present reality from the deepest knowledge of the world, if it is to be authoritative. The church must be able to say the Word of God, the word of authority, here and now, in the most concrete way possible, from knowledge of the situation. The church must not therefore preach timeless principles however true, but only commandments which are true today. God is ‘always’ God to us ‘today.’”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *No Rusty Swords: Letters, Lectures and Notes 1928-1936*

“No destiny can possibly be conceived in the world, or even out of it, other than that of a city [*polis*]. It is the last word of the Gospel, as it is of the New Testament: a city that is the heart of a world, a focus of international peace; a city that is itself a temple rather than possessing a temple...The church never was, in its true character, merely the temple of the city; it was the promise of the city itself...The resurrection of the dead makes equal and reciprocal sharing. It is the condition of true politics. And so, too, of political theology. The church will frame its political witness with authenticity, avoiding the characteristic evils of abstract idealism and colorless assimilation, when it stands self-consciously before that horizon and confesses that it looks for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.”

Oliver O’Donovan, *The Desire of the Nations: Recovering the Roots of Political Theology*

2.20.22

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

Question #24

How are these articles divided?

Into three parts: God the Father and our creation; God the Son and our deliverance; and God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.

Question #25

Since there is only one divine being,¹ why do you speak of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Because that is how God has revealed himself in his Word:² these three distinct persons are one, true, eternal God.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Isaiah 49:8-23

8 Thus says the Lord:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,

to apportion the desolate heritages,

9 saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’

to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;

on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

10 they shall not hunger or thirst,

neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,

for he who has pity on them will lead them,

and by springs of water will guide them.

11 And I will make all my mountains a road,

and my highways shall be raised up.

12 Behold, these shall come from afar,

and behold, these from the north and from the west,

and these from the land of Syene.’

13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the Lord has comforted his people

and will have compassion on his afflicted.

14 But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me;

my Lord has forgotten me.”

15 “Can a woman forget her nursing child,

that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?

Even these may forget,

yet I will not forget you.

16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

your walls are continually before me.

17 Your builders make haste;

your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you.

18 Lift up your eyes around and see;

they all gather, they come to you.

As I live, declares the Lord,

you shall put them all on as an ornament;

you shall bind them on as a bride does.

19 “Surely your waste and your desolate places
and your devastated land—
surely now you will be too narrow for your inhabitants,
and those who swallowed you up will be far away.
20 The children of your bereavement
will yet say in your ears:
‘The place is too narrow for me;
make room for me to dwell in.’
21 Then you will say in your heart:
‘Who has borne me these?
I was bereaved and barren,
exiled and put away,
but who has brought up these?
Behold, I was left alone;
from where have these come?’”
22 Thus says the Lord God:
“Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations,
and raise my signal to the peoples;
and they shall bring your sons in their arms,
and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.
23 Kings shall be your foster fathers,
and their queens your nursing mothers.
With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you,
and lick the dust of your feet.
Then you will know that I am the Lord;
those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.”

Opening Prayer

Hymn

A Debtor to Mercy Alone

A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offering to bring.
The terrors of law and of God
With me can have nothing to do;
My Savior's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view

The work which His goodness began,
The arm of His strength will complete;
His promise is yes and amen,
And never was forfeited yet.
Things future, nor things that are now,
Not all things below nor above
Can make Him His purpose forego,
Or sever my soul from His love.

My name from the palms of His hands
Eternity will not erase;
Impressed on His heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end shall endure,
As sure as the earnest is given
More happy, but not more secure,
The glorified spirits in heaven.

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

What a Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is (x2)
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You could have had heaven without us
But Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is (x2)

The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is (x2)
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

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

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

The Word of God

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 45:14-25

Romans 11:11-24

Revelation 3:7-13

Message

“Philadelphia: The Church of Marginal Power Destined for a Royal Crown”

Our Response to God's Grace

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Announcements

Benediction

“Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.” (James 1:12)

- That peace will prevail as tension mounts in several international situations that have the potential to break out into war
- 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 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 Yupanguí and Katelyn Bryant
- For Kirk and Barbara van der Swaagh as they travel to Scotland to meet with future teammates
- Continue or Rosita, she has returned home from the hospital and read facility
- *COVID-19 has not gone away, so pray . . .*
- 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.
- A new believer was beaten and jailed for sharing the gospel with another brother who converted to Christianity from Islam. After his release from jail his parents and siblings threw him out of the house, and his village forced him to leave because of his faith in Jesus. He now has no stable income to provide for his family, even as they continue to seek opportunities to minister the gospel to others in their life together. Pray for provision and protection.
- In Brunei, pastors and congregations are prohibited from evangelizing. Ask God to supernaturally open ways for them to bring others to him.
- In Afghanistan, pray for believers in hiding from the Taliban. They have little food, they desire to worship God with their brothers and sisters but this is not possible when they must be afraid of being caught and killed on the spot. Matthew 5:8

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 (Tim Keller's "How to Reach the West Again," available as a PDF online)

Upcoming

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

Contact

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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