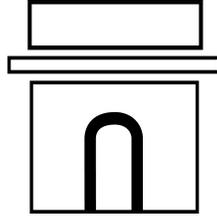


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“The mass of men have been forced to be happy about the little things, but sad about the big ones. Nevertheless (I offer my last dogma defiantly) it is not native to man to be so. Man is more himself, man is more manlike, when joy is the fundamental thing in him, and grief the superficial. Melancholy should be an innocent interlude, a tender and fugitive frame of mind; praise should be the permanent pulsation of the soul. Pessimism is at best an emotional half-holiday; joy is the uproarious labor by which all things live. Yet, according to the apparent estate of man as seen by the pagan or the agnostic, this primary need of human nature can never be fulfilled.”

G. K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*

“It is essential to the Church that nothing human is foreign to it. It is always and everywhere the Church of man, a Church of particular ages and peoples, and languages and cultures...In the Church the boundaries of humanity are respected and guarded. The Church does not worship idols. It does not cultivate ideologies...In that which makes it differ from the world, the Church is even more worldly than the world, more humanistic than the humanists. In it, it comes nearer to the real meaning of every human tragedy-comedy.”

Karl Barth, *God in Action*

4.3.22

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 #35

What does it mean that he “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”?

That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way⁵ except for sin.

Question #36

How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

A. He is our mediator and, in God's sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness my sinfulness in which I was conceived.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Psalm 103

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.
- 15 As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- 16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
- 17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
- 18 to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.
- 19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,

and his kingdom rules over all.
20 Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!
21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!
22 Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Opening Prayer

Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord is King
Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.

[Refrain]

*Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Jesus, the Savior, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He has purged our stains,
He took his seat above; *[Refrain]*

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n: *[Refrain]*

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord and judge shall come
And take His servants up
To their eternal home: *[Refrain]*

Confession of Faith | *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated 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,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy"
(Proverbs 28:13)

Corporate Confession

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to You, confessing our faults, confiding in Your grace, and finding in You our refuge and strength, through Jesus Christ Your Son. 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

“Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!” (Psalm 32:10-11)

Response

And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

[Refrain]

*Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me. *[Refrain]*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee. *[Refrain]*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *[Refrain]*

The Word of God & Sacrament

Scripture Readings

Psalm 8 (*Dan Cowles*; p. 450)

Psalm 144 (*Kristen Biddison*; p. 524)

Job 7:1-21 (*Joshua Jiang*; p. 421)

Message

“What Is a Human Being, That God Should Make So Much Of Us?”

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

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners
Jesus! What a friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

[Refrain]
Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength for weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my vict'ry wins. *[Refrain]*

Jesus! What a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul. *[Refrain]*

Jesus! I do now receive Him,
More than all in Him I find,
He has granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine. *[Refrain]*

Benediction

“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.” (Psalm 103:13-17)

- 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 Mattie and Heidi van der Swaagh as they prepare for the birth of twins
- For Steven Romeo, for healing of his chronic sciatic nerve injury
- For Austin Chen, Lindsey Quintana and Joshua Jiang as they finish medical school and prepare to transition into their new residency programs this summer

- For four 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; Max Martin and Jessica Samuel
- For Kirk and Barbara van der Swaagh as they prepare to move to Scotland
- *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 APRIL:

Uganda

- Pastor Musana has a heart for sharing Jesus with Muslims. When two converted to Christianity, an enraged mob killed Musana and threw his body into the river. Please pray for his loved ones and for those who continue to steadfastly and faithfully bear witness to the gospel.

Nigeria

- A teenager named Leah was kidnapped. She is still alive and has a young child. Please pray for her and for all the young people who have been taken and abused because they are Christians. May they experience God's wonderful peace and healing. Often in Nigeria there are raids on Christians and churches resulting in death or captivity simply because of their loyalty to the gospel. Please pray.

Laos

- A young child in Laos was raped and contracted HIV. She came to know Jesus at a Christian medical clinic where her parents had left her. Upon returning home to her family she has been ostracized because of her new faith. She dreams of becoming a doctor, and someone is helping her with the support she needs for this path. Please pray for her health and for God to continue to open doors and provide encouragement and support for her.

North Korea

- An urgent request: security guards broke into a location where several dozen Christians gathered for a secret worship meeting. They were arrested and executed in the room. Their families were also arrested and have been imprisoned. The total number of people exceeds 100. Political prisons in North Korea are without human dignity. Inmates are treated like animals, tortured, and forced to do harsh labor without enough food or warm clothing. Please pray earnestly for God's intervening grace and justice in this desperate situation.

Uzbekistan

- Police invaded a classroom and searched students' phones looking for illegal religious materials. Pray for the traumatized students and for their freedom to listen to digital Bibles, sermons and music without fear.

Unknown Country

- A young man accepted Christ and was baptized. His father was so incensed that he withheld food from his son and berated him constantly. Unable to cope with the ceaseless cruelty, he took his own life rather than renounce Christ. Please pray for his family and father, that they would come to see the value of Jesus through their son's life and be saved.

Please stand with these dear brothers and sisters in prayer, and in this way contribute to building up the kingdom of God

Ephesians 6:18; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9-10; Hebrews 13:3

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 (new series beginning this week on *the parables of Jesus*)

Prayer Meetings on Zoom

Monday 9-9:30pm

Tuesday 7:30-8:00am

Wednesday 12:30-1:00pm

Thursday 9-9:30pm

Upcoming

- Saturday, April 9th: Spring Cleanup @ 269 Bleecker Street (10am)
- Joint Good Friday service on April 15th @ 7:30pm at Calvary Church (21st Street & Park Avenue)
- Easter dinner on Sunday evening, April 17th (details coming soon from Hospitality team)
- Monthly Members' Meeting on Sunday, April 24th @ 1-2pm
- Saturday, April 30th (7:30-11:30am), Volunteer with food pantry & soup kitchen @ Father's Heart (545 E 11th St). Contact Kristen to sign up: ncgvvolunteer@gmail.com
- Celebration Weekend for Kirk & Barbara van der Swaagh: May 7-8

Contact

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Website: ncgvnyc.com

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