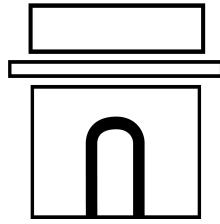


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH  
of Greenwich Village



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

“Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”  
Jesus of Nazareth

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”  
C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“There is one very serious defect to my mind in Christ's moral character, and that is that He believed in hell. I do not myself feel that any person who is really profoundly humane can believe in everlasting punishment. Christ certainly as depicted in the Gospels did believe in everlasting punishment, and one does find repeatedly a vindictive fury against those people who would not listen to His preaching . . . You do not, for instance find that attitude in Socrates. You find him quite bland and urbane toward the people who would not listen to him; and it is, to my mind, far more worthy of a sage to take that line than to take the line of indignation . . . I cannot myself feel that either in the matter of wisdom or in the matter of virtue Christ stands quite as high as some other people known to history. I think I should put Buddha and Socrates above Him in those respects.”  
Bertrand Russell, *Why I Am Not a Christian*

**05.08.22**

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.*

ΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩ

## GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

## HEIDELBERG CATECHISM | Lord's Day 19

### Why is there added: "And sits at the right hand of God"?

Because Christ ascended into heaven so that he might manifest himself there as the Head of his Church, through whom the Father governs all things.

### Question #51

#### What benefit do we receive from this glory of Christ, our Head?

First, that through His Holy Spirit he pours out heavenly gifts upon us, his members. Second, that by his power he defends and supports us against all our enemies.

### Question #52

#### What comfort does the return of Christ "to judge the living and the dead" give you?

That in all affliction and persecution I may await with head held high the very Judge from heaven who has already submitted himself to the judgment of God for me and has removed all the curse from me; that he will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but he shall take me, together with all his elect, to himself into heavenly joy and glory.

ΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩΩ

## ORDER OF SERVICE

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*Our Approach to God*

### Call to Worship

Psalms 65

1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,  
and to you shall vows be performed.

2 O you who hear prayer,  
to you shall all flesh come.

3 When iniquities prevail against me,  
you atone for our transgressions.

4 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,  
to dwell in your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
the holiness of your temple!

5 By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas;

6 the one who by his strength established the mountains,  
being girded with might;

7 who stills the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples,

8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.  
You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it;  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide their grain,  
for so you have prepared it.

10 You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.

11 You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,

13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Hymn**

*At The Name of Jesus*

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess him - King of glory now:  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,  
All the angels faces, all the hosts of light,  
Thrones and Dominations, stars upon their way,  
All the heavenly orders in their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
From the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
Faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious, when from death he passed:

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
All that is not holy, all that is not true:  
Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour;  
Let his will enfold you in its light and power.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
With his Father's glory, with his angel train;  
For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
And our hearts confess him - King of glory now.

### **Confession of Faith | The Apostles Creed**

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin, Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended to the dead; the third day He rose again; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall 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**

*Meekness and Majesty*

Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity  
In perfect harmony, the man who is God.  
Lord of infinity, dwells in humanity  
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

*Chorus*

*O what a mystery, meekness and majesty -  
Bow down and worship, for this is your God.*

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,  
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross.  
Suffering to give us life,  
Conquering through sacrifice,  
And as they crucify prays, "Father forgive." *Chorus*

Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,  
Love indestructible in frailty appears.  
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,  
Lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne. *Chorus*

## **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**

Almighty and everliving God, you have brought us again to this glad season in which celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, whom You raised from death to life and crowned Lord of all. Yet we have often clung to our sorrows and lived our lives neglecting this truth. We confess that we have been slow to believe, and we have not joyfully acknowledged His rule over us as we ought. 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 and walk 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 to 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 evil.

#### **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 God, My Faithful God*  
O God, my faithful God,  
true fountain ever flowing,  
without whom nothing is,  
all perfect gifts bestowing:  
give me a healthy frame,  
and may I have within  
a conscience free from blame,  
a soul unstained by sin.

Give me the strength to do  
with ready heart and willing  
whatever you command,  
my calling here fulfilling.  
To do it when I ought,  
with all my strength; and bless  
whatever I have wrought,  
for you must give success.

Keep me from saying words  
that later need recalling;  
guard me lest idle speech  
may from my lips be falling;  
but when, within my place  
I must and ought to speak,  
then to my words give grace  
lest I offend the weak.

When dangers gather round,  
O keep me calm and fearless;  
help me to bear the cross  
when life seems dark and cheerless.

Help me, as you have taught,  
to love both great and small,  
and by your Spirit's might  
to live at peace with all.

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*The Word of God & Sacrament*

### **Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 53:1-6  
Colossians 1:15-23  
Mark 4:35-41

### **Message**

“Who Then Is This?”

### **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.*

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*Our Response to God's Grace*

### **Commissioning of Barbara and Kirk van der Swaagh**

#### **Announcements**

#### **Closing Hymn**

*We Are God's People*

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,  
Born of his Spirit, established by his word;  
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,  
And strong in him we stand:  
O let us live transparently,  
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,  
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;  
Now let us learn how to return  
The gift of love once giv'n:  
O let us share each joy and care,  
A live with a zeal that please heav'n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is head,  
Called to obey him, now ris'n from the dead;  
He wills us be a family,  
Diverse yet truly one:  
O let us give our gifts to God,  
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,  
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;  
We die alone, for on its own  
Each member loses fire:  
Yet joined in one the flame burns on  
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

## **Benediction**

*May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

(Colossians 1:11-12)

ΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩΑΩ

## **PRAYER**

- For peace and the cessation of violence and war in the nation of Ukraine in light of Russia's unprovoked invasion
- 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 Ernest and Tyquawn Nowalk as they recover from injuries
- For students and teachers as this school year draws to a close
- For Mattie and Heidi van der Swaagh as they prepare for the birth of twins
- 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 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 MAY:

Central Asia

- This region has more believers in prison than anywhere else in the world. Pray for laws to change, for God to turn the heart of "kings" away from evil and injustice (Proverbs 21:1). India is trying to pass laws in more places that make conversion to Christianity illegal. Pray for all such laws to be prevented or rescinded.
- Samida was demeaned and beaten for bringing shame upon his household by becoming a Christian. This sister in Christ was rejected by her family, told that she would never be able to marry or have a family of her own, and beaten publicly by her own mother in the town square for dishonoring her family. Her parents have forced her to sleep outside in the shed with animals. Please pray for God to intervene and to reverse her unjust humiliation, and to provide her a safe situation.

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Christians are favorite targets of various militant groups simply for following Jesus. Ask the Lord to lay a blanket of tolerance over the hearts of those who persecute His people. Pray for all those who persecuted the church and harm our brothers and sisters.. Ask God to awaken their hearts through the Spirit, to illuminate their minds to see the truth of the gospel and to be saved themselves.

Iran

- In many places believers in Jesus are by necessity secret believers, with their livelihood and freedom at constant risk. Iran has jailed many Christians just for attending house churches or gathering in small groups. Please lift them up to the care of the Lord
- A man was seized by the police, interrogated for 10 hours a day for months, tortured and given a suspended sentence because he converted from Islam. He eventually had to flee Iran to survive. Pray for all those who have been forced to enter into exile because of their faith.

Please pray and intercede for your brothers and sisters in the faith. Let us not cease day or night until injustice ends.

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>

### Today

- Worship, 10:30am, online using the above link
- Sunday Fellowship Meal @ 269 Bleecker, after worship

### This Week

- Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30pm on Zoom, The Parables of Jesus

### Upcoming

- May 24, New All Things Project installation, “Fish and Banana,” opening reception, 7pm

### Contact

Phone: 212.691.1770

Mail: 269 Bleecker St., New York NY 10014

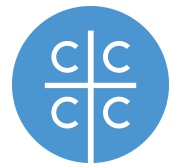
Email: [ncgv@ncgvnyc.com](mailto:ncgv@ncgvnyc.com)

Website: [ncgvnyc.com](http://ncgvnyc.com)

Sermons: [sermonaudio.com/solo/ncgv](http://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