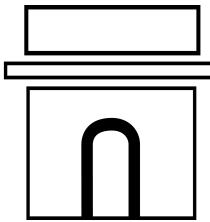


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“And if we will have an angel at the tomb, make it a real angel.”
John Updike, “Seven Stanzas at Easter”

“Do you object to the apparent ‘roundaboutness’--it could easily be made comic--of the whole picture? Why should God speak to Himself through man? I ask, in reply, why should He do anything through His creatures? Why should He achieve, the long way round, through the labor of angels, men (always imperfectly obedient and efficient), and the activity of irrational and inanimate beings, ends which, presumably, the mere fiat of omnipotence would achieve with instantaneous perfection? Creation seems to be delegation through and through. He will do nothing simply of Himself which can be done by creatures. I suppose this is because He is a giver. And He has nothing to give but Himself. And to give Himself is to do His deeds--in a sense, and on varying levels to be Himself--through the things He has made. In Pantheism God is all. But the whole point of creation surely is that He was not content to be all. He intends to be ‘all in all.’”

C. S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer*

“Petitionary prayer is, nonetheless, both allowed and commanded to us: ‘Give us this day our daily bread.’ And no doubt it raises a theoretical problem. Can we believe that God ever really modifies His action in response to the suggestions of men? For infinite wisdom does not need telling what is best, and infinite goodness needs no urging to do it. But neither does God need any of those things that are done by finite agents, whether living or inanimate. He could, if He chose, repair our bodies miraculously without food; or give us food without the aid of farmers, bakers, and butchers; or knowledge without the aid of learned men; or convert the heathen without missionaries. Instead, He allows soils and weather and animals and the muscles, minds, and wills of men to co-operate in the execution of His will. ‘God,’ said Pascal, ‘instituted prayer in order to lend to His creatures the dignity of causality.’ But not only prayer; whenever we act at all He lends us that dignity. It is not really stranger, nor less strange, that my prayers should affect the course of events than that my other actions should do so. They have not advised or changed God’s mind--that is, His overall purpose. But that purpose will be realized in different ways according to the actions, including the prayers, of His creatures.

For He seems to do nothing of Himself which He can possibly delegate to His creatures. He commands us to do slowly and blunderingly what He could do perfectly and in the twinkling of an eye. He allows us to neglect what He would have us to do, or to fail. Perhaps we do not fully realize the problem, so to call it, of enabling finite free wills to co-exist with Omnipotence. It seems to involve at every moment almost a sort of divine abdication. We are not mere recipients or spectators. We are either privileged to share in the game or compelled to collaborate in the world, ‘to wield our little tridents.’ Is this amazing process simply Creation going on before our eyes? This is how (no light matter) God makes something--indeed, makes gods--out of nothing.”

C. S. Lewis, *The World’s Last Night: And Other Essays*

7.3.22

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,

Nick Nowalk, Pastor

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 27

Question 72

Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

No, only Jesus Christ’s blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

Question 73

Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of rebirth and the washing away of sins?

God has good reason for these words. To begin with, God wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ take away our sins just as water removes dirt from the body.

But more important, God wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually as our bodies are washed with water physically.

Question 74

Should infants also be baptized?

Yes, Infants as well as adults are included in God’s covenant and people,¹ and they, no less than adults, are promised deliverance from sin through Christ’s blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith.

Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant, they too should be incorporated into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision, which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.

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

Desert Song

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

And this is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

[Chorus]

*And I will bring praise, I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain*

*I will rejoice, I will declare
God is my victory and He is here*

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand [Chorus]

[Bridge x3]

All of my life, In every season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship [Chorus 2x]

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favor and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

Confession of Faith | The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was and is and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." (James 5:16)

Corporate Confession

Eternal Father, you are good beyond all thought, but we are wretched and blind. Our lips are ready to confess, but our hearts are slow to feel, and our ways reluctant to amend. We bring ourselves to you and ask you to wound us, bend us, mold us. Grant us to know that the way of transgressors is hard, that evil paths are wretched paths, and to depart from you is to lose all good. Work in us a more profound and abiding repentance. Grant that through the tears of repentance we may see more clearly the brightness and glories of the saving cross. As we quiet ourselves to confess sin, hear our prayers, for we come in the name of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, to seek forgiveness.

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 the evil one.

Assurance of Grace

"To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
(Acts 10:43)

Response

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair bowed down with care God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled and pardoned from his sin

[Chorus]

*O love of God how rich and pure how measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song*

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill
And ev'ry man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky *[Chorus]*

When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall
When men, who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure, All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints' and angels' song. *[Chorus]*

Scripture Readings

Psalm 91
Mark 1:13
Hebrews 1:1-2:18

Message

Grace in the Wilderness: Angels as God's Servants (And Ours)

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

Whom Shall I Fear? (Angel Armies)

You hear me when I call
You are my morning song
Though darkness fills the night
It cannot hide the light
Whom shall I fear

You crush the enemy
Underneath my feet
You are my sword and shield
Though troubles linger still
Whom shall I fear

[Chorus]

*I know who goes before me
I know who stands behind
The God of angel armies
Is always by my side
The one who reigns forever
He is a friend of mine
The God of angel armies
Is always by my side*

My strength is in Your name
For You alone can save
You will deliver me
Yours is the victory
Whom shall I fear

Whom shall I fear [Chorus]

[Bridge x2]

And nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in Your hands
I'm holding on to Your promises
You are faithful
You are faithful

[Chorus x2]

Benediction

“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, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” 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, 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!” 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!” (Revelation 5:9-13)

PRAYER

- 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 the grandfather of one of our regular attenders, who has been hospitalized with thrombus
- For Chantal, for her surgery to remove a sarcoma on July 8th—that the surgery would be successful and safe, and that cancer would not spread now or in the future in her body
- For Sam van der Swaagh as he pursues a career as a data analyst
- For Jingwen Zhang as she prepares to take her Step 2 test for medical school
- For Ernest Nowalk, who is serving with YWAM in the Philippines this summer
- For Mattie and Heidi van der Swaagh (new parents!) and their twins, Samuel Asher and Jane Madeleine
- 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 three couples in our fellowship that have recently become engaged: Nate Harp and Jennifer Yu; Trevor Agatsuma and Grace Choi; Max Martin and Jessica Samuel
- For Kirk and Barbara van der Swaagh as they prepare to move to Scotland
- 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 JULY:

Egypt

- The killing of Coptic Christians is on the rise. At least three men were murdered recently. A father of two was brutally attacked with a machete, and the believing community is grieving over this heartbreaking loss. In May a

Coptic believer was killed outside his workplace by a militant Islamic terrorist. Please stand with our brothers and sisters with enduring intercessory prayer.

Uzbekistan

- Two women (a mother and daughter) who converted from Islam to Christianity were attacked and beaten by the husband and father. The husband angrily threatened divorce and to take the other children away. Both the mother and daughter were expelled from their home and quickly took refuge in a safe house. Let us pray for their protection, Psalm 46:1
- Two female teenagers risk their lives to follow Jesus. One girl was locked in the house and is not permitted to leave without her elder brother to escort her. Classmates of the other young woman threaten her harm and even death. She is frightened to go to school or even back home because of the danger she feels. Please uphold these beloved sisters in the Lord in prayer, asking for grace and protection on their behalf

Democratic Republic of Congo

- Forces attacking with gunfire killed at least twenty people, the majority of whom were Christians. Assailants set thirty homes on fire. A week prior, twelve children were killed, five injured and at least three kidnapped. Lift up your prayers of intercession to our common Father. These sorts of occurrences happen too regularly and discourage the church.

A recent report says that 1% of the world's population is experiencing displacement because of their faith, many of whom are followers of Jesus. Pray that the God of peace would rise up and restore justice. Let us be faithful to the Lord in prayer and intercession. Let us earnestly advocate for our brothers and sisters around the world, that they may live out their lives before the Lord in quiet and safety, and that they would endure to the end in their faith—supported by the prayers of all God's people. Eph. 6:18; James 5:16b; 1 Thess. 5:17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For activities on zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/ncgvzoom>

This Week

- Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30pm on Zoom (Q & A on Satan, fallen angels, spiritual warfare)

Upcoming

- Cookout after church on Sunday, July 3rd (269 Bleecker)! Burgers, hot dogs, etc. Bring a side and/or dessert!
- Joint Sunday evening worship & prayer with Gallery & Storefront Churches: July 24th & August 21st @ 6pm
- Monthly Members' Meeting on Sunday, July 10th @ 1pm
- Saturday, July 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

Contact

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Pastor: 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