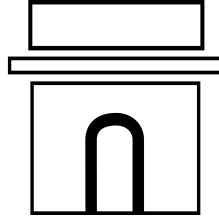


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“What inclines even me to believe in Christ’s Resurrection?...Perhaps we can say: only *love* can believe in the Resurrection.
Or: it is *love* that believes the Resurrection.”
-Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Culture and Values*

“This [the resurrection of Jesus] is a historical happening not of the kind that fades away from us and crumbles into the dust, but of the kind that remains real and therefore that resists corruption and moves the other way, forward throughout all history to the end-time and to the consummation of all things in the new creation. Jesus remains alive and a real historical happening, more real and more historical than any other historical event, for this is the only historical event that does not suffer from decay and is not threatened by annihilation and illusion.”
-T. F. Torrance, *Space, Time and Resurrection*

“The man who takes seriously the command of Christ to take up his cross and follow him must, if he is serious, see himself as a comic figure.”
-W. H. Auden, “Balaam and His Ass,” in *The Dyer’s Hand and Other Essays*

“Be joyful, though you have considered all the facts...Practice resurrection.”
-Wendell Berry, “Manifesto: Mad Farmer Liberation Front”

4/9/23

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)

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: Christ is risen!
Congregation: *He is risen indeed!*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to Worship

Psalm 115:17-18, 116:1-9, 118:17-27

Opening Prayer

Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Confession of Faith | *Apostles' Creed*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of 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 the Father.
He will come again 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

O Praise the Name

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet
My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears

They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

[Chorus]

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King *[Chorus]*

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face *[Chorus x2]*

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

Corporate Confession

Our Father, you raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have been slow to believe, and have not joyfully acknowledged his rule over us as we should. 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, knowing the joy of Easter triumph and walking 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 us—through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Silent Personal Confession

Assurance of Grace

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)

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 & Sacrament

Scripture Readings

Job 14:1-22 (*Ebuka Imachukwu*)
Acts 13:26-43 (*Katie Choi*)
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (*Sam van der Swaagh*)

Message

Resurrection: God's Ultimate Answer to Our Ultimate Cry

Baptism

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" (Matt. 28:18-20)

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Eph. 4:1-6)

INQUIRY AND AFFIRMATION (*Adam Schwing, Ashley Zhou, Tyquawn Nowalk, Ernest Nowalk*)

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God and His good creation?

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you away from the love of God and your neighbor?

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and receive him as your Savior? Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord, along with your brothers and sisters in the body of Christ?

Do you promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Do you promise to strive for justice, mercy and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

CONGREGATION (*Stands*)

Do you, fellow Christians, now renew your own baptismal vows as you celebrate with our brothers and sisters this sacrament of grace?

Do you promise to seek God's guidance as you welcome your brothers and sisters into the community of faith, offering them Christian love and nurture through your prayers and encouragement, your teaching and affection?

SACRAMENT (*Kneels*)

Adam, Ashley, Tyquawn & Ernest, having heard your commitment to the Scriptures, the revealed Word of God; your acknowledgment of your need of God's grace, both in the forgiveness of sins and the embrace of your new life in Christ; your intention to seek God in prayer for yourself and others, asking for his guidance; and your promise to be an active participant in the life of the church, as a minister of the Gospel, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYER

*We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.
Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage
in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus
received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy
Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death
and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.*

*We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are
buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his
resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.*

*Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his
fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in
the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Now sanctify this water, we pray, by the power of your
Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and
born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.*

Our Response to God's Grace

Living Hope

*How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

*Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

[Chorus]

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
And out of the silence, the roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me [x2]

Jesus, Yours is the victory! [Chorus x2]

Announcements

Benediction

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:54-58)

Make no mistake: if he rose at all
It was as His body;
If the cell’s dissolution did not reverse, the molecules reknit,
The amino acids rekindle,
The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
Each soft spring recurrent;
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the
Eleven apostles;
It was as His flesh; ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes
The same valved heart
That—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then regathered
Out of enduring Might
New strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,
Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded
Credulity of earlier ages:
Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,
Not a stone in a story,
But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of
Time will eclipse for each of us
The wide light of day.

And if we have an angel at the tomb,
Make it a real angel,
Weighty with Max Planck’s quanta, vivid with hair, opaque in
The dawn light, robed in real linen
Spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed

By the miracle,
And crushed by remonstrance.

—John Updike, “Seven Stanzas at Easter”

PRAYER

- That God would open up a new, larger location for us to worship in on Sunday mornings in Greenwich Village
- For our new Pastoral Search Committee as they begin looking to identify a second pastor for NCGV
- For Mary Sue Daoud as she awaits upcoming surgery
- Pray for healing for Megan as she receives ongoing cancer treatments
- For Kirk and Barbara van der Swaagh as they serve as missionaries in 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; Manjari R., a cross-cultural worker serving the peoples of Lebanon and Syria; Noel Chou with Wycliffe Bible Translators; 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

FOR APRIL:

1.) Laos

- Pastor Manee refused to sign a document renouncing the Christian faith and promising to cease from preaching the gospel. He received a three day sentence. Shortly after he returned to preaching publicly he was murdered. Pray for comfort for his devastated family and hurting congregation.

2.) Afghanistan

- A brother named Bashir took refuge in Pakistan, but his visa has expired. He faces near certain death as a Christian convert if he is returned to his country. Ask the Lord to intervene in this dire situation.
- Tsreg, his wife and their baby daughter fled their home in Afghanistan to escape the Taliban, who regularly search for Christians. They left in secret and now live as refugees in Brazil. Pray the Lord restores their broken hearts as they have been forced to leave everything and everyone they’ve known.

3.) China

- A female pastor named Hoo has been sentenced to eight years in prison on false charges of fraud. Pray for her health, strength and faith as she endures this sentence—and countless others face similar situations.
- Persecution is on the rise in China. Young people, teachers and parents are told that religion will harm their education and future career prospects. Pray for the church here, especially for young believers.

4.) Uganda

- Two brothers were studying the Bible when family members beat them, accusing them of bringing an unholy corrupted book into the home of a Muslim family. Pray that God would open the eyes of their family to see Jesus.
- Posing as a Christian, a Muslim extremist lured a Ugandan pastor into an ambush. His attackers sprayed him with acid and nearly blinded him. Pray for healing and encouragement as he recovers.

5.) Nigeria

- It is estimated that the vast majority of Christians in northeast Nigeria have lost family members in attacks by Islamic militants. Pray for hearts to be healed, and that God would raise up a mighty house of believers.
- This month marks nine years since Boko Haram abducted 276 girls from a school. Nearly 100 are still missing. Please pray for those who are still captives.
- Two buses of believers, one going to a wedding and the other a funeral, were forcibly stopped by extremists. A total of 71 people were kidnapped for ransom. This is an increasingly common crime in Nigeria—please lift these dear brothers and sisters up in prayer, along with their anguished families.

6.) India

- As persecution heats up in India, pastors are being targeted, murdered and deported. This discourages and intimidates their churches and many individual Christians who attend, not to mention the untold grief caused to their families. Pray that the church would continue to grow (spiritually and numerically) despite all the oppression our brothers and sisters are facing.

7.) Sudan

- A former Muslim woman named Awatif converted to Christianity at the beginning of 2023 after Jesus appeared to her in a dream. When her husband learned of her new faith he tried to force her to renounce the gospel through physical torture. She did not give up her faith, and her family—thinking she had gone insane—kidnapped her and took her to a psychiatric hospital. She was given various unidentified injections and electrical shock treatment, all

against her will. She remains in a highly dangerous situation, with no legal recourse available. Let's be in unceasing prayer on behalf of all who suffer such injustice and harm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For activities on zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/ngvzoom>

Upcoming

- NCGV Small Groups meet weekly! Lower Manhattan (Tuesdays), Queens/LIC (Wednesdays), & UWS/West Harlem (Wednesdays). Email nick.nowalk@gmail.com if you are interested in checking out a small group.
- First Friday Jazz Series: Friday, April 14th @ 8pm & 9:30pm at 269 Bleecker Street
- Next round of "new member" classes at NCGV: April 16th, 23rd & 30th after the service (1pm)
- Serving at Father's Heart (food pantry & soup kitchen): Saturday, April 29th (7:45-11:30am) @ 545 E. 11th Street. Email Kristen at ngvvolunteer@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Giving

There are four ways to give to Neighborhood Church:

- Cash or checks dropped into the offering box at the worship service
- Checks mailed to: Neighborhood Church, 269 Bleecker Street, New York NY 10014
- PayPal donations via this link: paypal.me/ngv
- Zelle or Venmo transfers to 201-988-1044

Contact

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Website: ngvnyc.com

Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles



Neighborhood Church is a member of the
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference