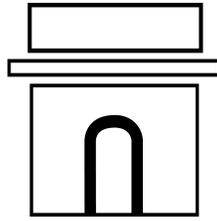


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH  
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“Engine against th’ Almighty”  
–George Herbert’s description of prayer

“The words of a faithful man...are a cannon against God himself, and batter down all his severe and heavy purposes for judgments. Yet this comes not, God knows, out of the weight or force of our words, but out of the easiness of God.”  
John Donne, Sermon 40

“Although numerous narrative and prophetic texts include a depiction of God as repenting, there is one Old Testament passage that formulates this as a theological axiom about the nature of God’s dealings with humanity: Jeremiah 18:1-12. I propose that the axiomatic nature of this formulation makes this passage *the* passage whereby all other depictions of divine repentance elsewhere should be understood, when one is reading the Old Testament as canonical scripture.”  
–R. W. L. Moberly, “Does God Change?” in *Old Testament Theology*

**5/14/23**

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 His grace,

Nick Nowalk, Pastor

**WELCOME**

Leader: The Lord be with you  
Congregation: *And also with you*

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

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*Our Approach to God*

**Call to Worship** | *Lamentations 3:19-33*

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn**

*Cornerstone*

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

*[Chorus]*

*Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord*

## *Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil [*Chorus*]

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne [*Chorus*]

In Christ alone I place my trust  
And find my glory in the power of the cross  
In every victory let it be said of me  
My source of strength, my source of hope  
Is Christ alone

## **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**

### *Faithful to the End*

We're heaven-spun creations  
His pride and adoration  
Treasures woven by His love  
His careful hands they hold us  
Safe within His promise  
Of calling and of destiny

### *[Chorus]*

*I will sing of all You've done  
I'll remember how far You carried me  
From beginning until the end  
You are faithful, faithful to the end*

A Father's heart that's for me  
A never-ending story

Of love that's always chasing me  
His kindness overwhelming  
And hope for me unending  
He's never given up on me *[Chorus]*

There wasn't a day that You weren't by my side  
There wasn't a day that You let me fall  
In all of my life, Your love has been true  
And with all of my life I will worship You *[Chorus]*

There won't be a day that You're not by my side  
There won't be a day that You let me fall  
In all of my life, Your love will be true  
And with all of our lives we will worship You

## **Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace**

### **Corporate Confession**

O Lord our God,  
Grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;  
that desiring you,  
we may seek and find you;  
and finding you we may love you;  
and loving you we may hate those sins from which you have redeemed us;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen. *(St. Anselm)*

### **Silent Personal Confession**

#### **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)

### **Response**

#### *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

#### *[Refrain]*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

I could not love Thee, so blind and unfeeling;  
Covenant promises fell not to me.  
Then without warning, desire, or deserving,  
I found my Treasure, my pleasure, in Thee. *[Chorus]*

I have no merit to woo or delight Thee,  
I have no wisdom or pow'rs to employ;  
Yet in thy mercy, how pleasing thou find'st me,  
This is Thy pleasure: that Thou art my joy. *[Chorus]*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. *[Chorus]*

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*The Word of God & Sacrament*

### **Scripture Readings**

Jeremiah 18:1-12 (*Joseph Kim*)

Jeremiah 26:1-19 (*Ujunwa Anakwenze*)

James 1:12-21 (*Trevor Brown*)

### **Message**

Faithful: The Unchangeable God Who Changes His Mind

### **The Table of the Lord**

*“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?...You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies.”*

Words of Institution

Distribution & Reflection

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*

### **Intercessory Prayer**

#### **Announcements**

*Goodness of God*

I love You Lord

For Your mercy never fails me

All my days, I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

Oh I will sing of the goodness of God

*[Chorus]*

*All my life You have been faithful*

*All my life You have been so, so good*

*With every breath that I am able*

*Oh I will sing of the goodness of God*

I love Your voice

You have led me through the fire

In darkest night, You are close like no other

I've known You as a father

I've known You as a friend

Oh I have lived in the goodness of God *[Chorus]*

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me *[Chorus]*

### **Benediction**

*“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is*

*trustworthy, for: if we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.” (2 Timothy 2:8-13)*

## **PRAYER**

- That God would open up a new, larger location for us to worship in on Sunday mornings in lower Manhattan
- For our new Pastoral Search Committee as they begin looking to identify a second pastor for NCGV
- We are thankful to God that Dan Cowles is back home and doing well after an overnight stay in the hospital. Pray for recovery and ongoing good health
- For Temitope Ali and his family as they grieve the tragic loss of his younger brother in a car accident
- Pray for Jingwen Zhang as she prepares to move to Dallas to begin her residency after medical school
- 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 MAY:

### **1.) Algeria**

- Islam is the official religion and evangelism by Christians is outlawed. Converts to Christianity can be charged with a crime, as well as face significant family and community pressure. Pray that the Lord would protect His people under His mighty wings.
- Slimane was outspoken about his faith in Jesus and was sentenced to five years in prison. He then sought asylum in Tunisia but was kidnapped and returned to Algeria. It was reported he received an additional three years for undermining national unity. Pray that the light of God’s grace shines brightly for him and through him as he endures this unjust punishment.

### **2.) Afghanistan**

- It is the expressly stated desire of the Taliban to eradicate Christianity from Afghanistan. Pray for the safety of all Christians and their protection—and that the Spirit would miraculously and powerfully work through these trials and difficulties to multiply the fruit of the gospel in more and more lives, in spite of the intentions of evil men.

### **3.) Somalia**

- Becoming a Christian can mean execution. There are only a small number of believers worshiping in secret and in constant fear of being discovered and punished. Even outside humanitarian groups are prevented from working there. Please pray for all believers and for Christian and non-Christian aid workers, for their safety.

### **4.) Kenya**

- In eastern Kenya Muslims who convert to Christianity are often targeted for violence. The extremist group al-Shabaab intentionally seeks to murder ex-Muslim believers. Pray that our brothers and sisters would exemplify grace, courage and steadfast love to their persecutors.

### **5.) Nigeria**

- This nation is home to 89% of the Christians martyred in the entire world last year. There are countless atrocities of Christians being targeted for kidnapping and murder. Recently a group of Fulani Muslim militants stormed into the streets, attacking without discrimination and killing many. Please stand in the gap for these courageous Christians who face such injustice and trauma, as well as for friends and family who have lost loved ones.

### **6.) India**

- Persecutions have significantly escalated recently, with pastors in particular being targeted. Churches have been burned down, and the property of believers has been confiscated on multiple occasions. Please pray for new Christians who have converted from Hinduism, who often face ostracization and even death from extremists, as well as loneliness as social ties are taken away from them. Pray for strong fellowship in Christian communities.

### **7.) Iran**

- Believers are speaking out against the executions of activists, and exposing human rights violations. Pray for them as they take the risk of bringing to the light much of the darkness of their leaders and government.

### **8.) Ukraine**

- Christians have been specifically targeted for some time by Russian troops. The Russian Orthodox Church views the church in Ukraine as an illegitimate, rogue breakaway group, thus implicitly authorizing damage done against this “apostate” people. More than 500 sacred sites have been looted, damaged or destroyed. Many Christian

leaders have been tortured or killed in the war so far, specifically targeted and singled out. Among those imprisoned there are many reports of food and water deprivation and rape. Pray that God would rise up.

#### 9.) Eritrea

- Earlier this month, Eritrean police raided a group of Christian college students who had gathered to worship and record video clips for social media. Release International reported that 103 Christians, mainly students, were arrested in the crackdown. The raid took place in the capital, Asmara, and those arrested were taken to Mai Serwa prison. There are now more than 500 Christian prisoners detained indefinitely without trial in Eritrea. The prison where the students were taken, Mai Serwa, is notorious for its harsh conditions, overcrowding, and poor treatment of inmates

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### For activities on zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/ngvzoom>

##### Upcoming

- **Special “Test Drive” service on Sunday, May 21st @ 2pm at St. Paul’s German Evangelical Lutheran Church (315 W. 22nd Street in Chelsea, between 8th & 9th Ave)**
- Congregational meeting: Sunday, May 28th @ 1pm to discuss new location
- Summer PRAYER & WORSHIP nights at NCGV: Mondays at 7pm (May 15, June 3, 19, July 1, 31)
- Summer Bible study on Wednesday evenings: the Minor Prophets (details TBA)

##### 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](https://www.paypal.me/ngv)
- Zelle or Venmo transfers to 201-988-1044

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Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles



Neighborhood Church is a member of the  
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference