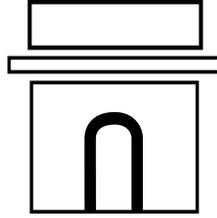


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 315 W. 22nd Street @ 2pm (St. Paul's German Lutheran Church)

"The dust of earth now sits upon the throne of heaven"
-John Duncan, echoing 1 Samuel 2:8

"To the resurrection is quite appropriately joined the ascent into heaven. Now having laid aside the mean and lowly state of mortal life and the shame of the cross, Christ by rising again began to show forth his glory and power more fully. Yet he truly inaugurated his Kingdom only at his ascension into heaven...For Christ left us in such a way that his presence might be more useful to us--a presence that had been confined in a humble abode of flesh so long as he sojourned on the earth.

Indeed, we see how much more wonderfully he advanced his Kingdom, how much greater power he displayed both in helping his people and in scattering his enemies. Carried up into heaven, therefore, he withdrew his bodily presence from our sight, not to cease to be present with believers still on their earthly pilgrimage, but to rule heaven and earth with a more immediate power. But by his ascension he fulfilled what he had promised: that he would be with us even to the end of the world. As his body was raised up above all the heavens, so his power and energy were diffused and spread beyond all bounds of heaven and earth."

-John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* 2.16.14

"Our most revolutionary political act is to hope. As the novelist Marilynne Robinson succinctly observes: 'Fear is not a Christian habit of mind.' To be a Christian is to be a person who engages in politics but does so without fear. Fear drives us to panic, and no one makes good decisions when they're panicked. We overestimate some threats and ignore others. We can't see clearly, and we're prone to being manipulated by those who would foment our panic. But we ought not to be a panicked people. Our King has told us over and over again, 'Be not afraid.' You have already heard the good news that brings great joy. The King is alive and seated on his throne, and he reigns. And not only that: he is also interceding for us at the right hand of his Father. 'Be not afraid.'"

-James K. A. Smith, *Awaiting the King: Reforming Public Theology*

5/21/23

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

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship | *Psalm 100*

Opening Prayer

Song

We Have Come / Bless the Lord

We have come to give You glory
We have come to give You praise
(repeat)

You're welcome in this place
(repeat)

Have Your way, Have Your way, Have Your way
(repeat)

Bless the Lord, and let all that's within me shout out
(repeat)

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.

Song

What a Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now, revealed in You our Christ

*What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus*

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

*What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus*

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast of sin and grave
The Heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God, You reign
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the Glory
Yours is the Name above all names

*What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus*

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

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? / Nothing But the Blood

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

*Oh precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Scripture Readings

John 14:15-28 (*Sandra Kimokoti*)

Acts 1:1-11 (*Steven Romeo*)

Ephesians 1:15-23 (*Justin Du*)

Message

Ascension: He's Got the Whole World In His Hands

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.

Our Response to God's Grace

Intercessory Prayer

Announcements

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem,

and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem,

and crown him Lord of all!

O seed of Israel's chosen race

now ransomed from the fall,

hail him who saves you by his grace,

and crown him Lord of all.

Hail him who saves you by his grace,

and crown him Lord of all!

Let every tongue and every tribe

responsive to his call,

to him all majesty ascribe,

and crown him Lord of all.

To him all majesty ascribe,

and crown him Lord of all!

Oh, that with all the sacred throng

we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song

and crown him Lord of all.

We'll join the everlasting song

and crown him Lord of all.

Benediction

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

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 Steven Romeo for healing of his sciatica pain
- Pray for those who are preparing to leave NYC in this season (Jingwen, Chase, Silas, Nancy, Ujunwa, Alexis)
- 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; Bowers 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 worshipping 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

- Congregational meeting: Sunday, May 28th @ 1pm to discuss new location
- Returning to St. Paul's German Lutheran on first three Sundays of June (4th, 11th, 18th) @ 2pm
- Summer PRAYER & WORSHIP nights at NCGV: Mondays or Saturdays at 7pm (**June 3, 19, July 1, 31**)
- Joint summer Bible study with Storefront Church on the Minor Prophets: Wednesday evenings starting June 21st
- New NCGV Spanish Bible study beginning soon! (if interested, contact Diego at dlaboy723@gmail.com)

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

Contact

Phone: 212.691.1770

Mail: 269 Bleecker St., New York NY 10014

Email: ngv@ngvnyc.com

Website: ngvnyc.com

Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles



Neighborhood Church is a member of the
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference