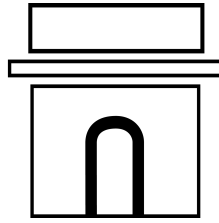


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH  
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“Few doctrines in the history of Christian theology have been as misunderstood and distorted, and few have caused as much controversy and distress, as the doctrine of the eternal decrees of God, or double predestination.”

-Daniel L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*

“The church is always caught up in the movement of God’s purpose from one to all. God never singles out some for their sake alone, but always for others. So the church should be the community from which the blessing of Abraham, experienced in Jesus, overflows to others. The church [is] the people who have recognized God as he truly is in God’s revelation in Jesus and therefore make that known to others. The church is those people who, so far, acknowledge God’s rule as he is implementing it in Jesus and live for others in the light of the coming of his kingdom in all creation.”

-Richard Bauckham, *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*

“But if we are elected in him, we cannot find the certainty of our election in ourselves; and not even in God the Father, if we look at him apart from the Son. Christ, then, is the mirror in which we ought, and in which, without deception, we may contemplate our election. For since it is into his body that the Father has decreed to ingraft those whom from eternity he wished to be his, that he may regard as sons all whom he acknowledges to be his members, if we are in communion with Christ, we have proof sufficiently clear and strong that we are written in the Book of Life.”

John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* 3.24.5

**3/26/23**

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: The Lord be with you

Congregation: *And also with you*

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

## **Call to Worship**

*Psalm 131*

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Hymn**

*Before the Throne of God Above*

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Savior and my God

### **Confession of Faith** | *Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
he was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Hymn**

*How He Loves*

He is jealous for me  
Love's like a hurricane, I am a tree  
Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy  
When all of a sudden  
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory  
And I realize just how beautiful You are  
And how great Your affections are for me

And oh, how He loves us, oh  
Oh, how He loves us  
How He loves us all  
Yeah, He loves us  
Oh, how He loves us  
Oh, how He loves us  
Oh, how He loves

And we are His portion and He is our prize  
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes  
If His grace is an ocean, we're all sinking  
And heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss  
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest  
I don't have time to maintain these regrets  
When I think about, the way...

That He loves us  
Oh, how He loves us  
Oh, how He loves us  
Oh, how He loves

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

#### **Corporate Confession**

Lord Jesus, forgive our sins. Forgive the sins that we remember, and the sins we have forgotten. Forgive our failures in the face of temptation, and our stubbornness in the face of correction. Forgive the times when we have been proud of our own achievements and when we have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments we have made of others, and the leniency we have shown ourselves. Forgive the lies we have told others, and the untruths we have told ourselves. Forgive the pain we have caused others and the indulgence we have shown ourselves. Lord Jesus, have mercy on us sinners and make us whole again. For your glory, Lord, for the abundance of our own lives, and for the sake of others. Amen.

#### **Silent Personal Confession**

#### **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**

### *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come  
This grace that brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home

When we've been here ten thousand years  
Bright, shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun

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*The Word of God & Sacrament*

## **Scripture Readings**

John 6:35-46, 60-65 (*Hannah Long*)  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (*Arturo Villanueva*)  
Ephesians 1:1-14 (*Ray Zeng*)

## **Message**

Election: The God Who Chooses

## **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**

*Who You Say I Am*

Who am I that the highest King

Would welcome me?

I was lost but He brought me in

Oh His love for me

Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free

Oh is free indeed

I'm a child of God  
Yes I am

Free at last  
He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am

I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am

### **Benediction**

*"Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound everyone over to disobedience, so that he may have mercy on them all. Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." (Romans 11:30-36)*

### **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 MARCH: God has a habit of showing up right before things get really difficult and overwhelming, even when things seem to be at their absolute worst. We must always lean persistently and energetically into praying for our brothers and sisters who are suffering around the world in the global church. Galatians 6:9-10 reminds us not to become weary or to give up when a situation seems impossible. We may never know the many countless lives we will be connected to as God uses and responds to fervent prayer with His surprising grace.

#### **1.) Ukraine**

- A Baptist pastor Leonard and his wife Tatyana were arrested in a Russian-occupied part of Ukraine and have not been heard from since September. Other leaders have been forcibly seized and tortured, and churches closed.

## 2.) Yemen

- Christians are experiencing a sharp rise in arrests and torture intended to force believers to give names and information about other Christians for interrogation and persecution. Pray for emotional peace for these traumatized believers and for an end to all such harassment.

## 3.) Uganda

- Two evangelists were beaten and attacked with knives after leading several Muslims to Christ. They ask others to join them in prayer for strength to continue their ministry.

## 4.) Nigeria

- Militant groups killed more than 70 Christians in a village in central Nigeria. Over 100 more people were injured and thousands fled for their lives afterwards. Cry out to God for these hurting people. These things are happening in Nigeria to our brothers and sisters more and more.

## 5.) Mozambique

- Islamic extremists set fire to a church building and several houses, killing at least one person. A radical group also announced the killing of 20 Christians and the displacement of hundreds more. Ask the Lord to bring an end to the violence and to hide His people from further harm.

## 6.) China

- Two missionaries from a church in Beijing were arrested for evangelizing outside their immediate area, a reminder of the country's zero tolerance policy for house churches that do so. The Chinese government is serious about stamping out all forms of religious faith that are perceived to threaten the communist party and strong state rule. There is widespread state control over the distribution of Christian content and resources to discourage believers in their worship and sharing of their faith.
- Two pastors and another Christian were falsely detained on charges of fraud in October. No updates on their location or condition have been given to their families or communities.

## 7.) Sub-Saharan Africa

- Violence grows in many parts of Africa. Persecution can be pervasive and without reprieve, and often brutally violent. Pray for God's protection and for the faith and courage of our brothers and sisters.

## 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](mailto:nick.nowalk@gmail.com) if you are interested in checking out a small group.
- Monthly Congregational meeting today (March 26th) from 1-2pm @ 269 Bleecker Street
- Joint Good Friday service on Friday, April 7th @ 7:30pm at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow Street)
- Easter Sunday is Sunday, April 9th at 10:30am—a special baptism service!
- Next round of “new member” classes at NCGV: April 16th, 23rd & 30th after the service
- Serving at Father's Heart (food pantry & soup kitchen): Saturday, April 29th (7:45-11:30am) @ 545 E. 11th Street. Email Kristen at [ncgvvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ncgvvolunteer@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](https://www.paypal.me/ngv)
- Zelle or Venmo transfers to 201-988-1044

### Contact

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Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles

