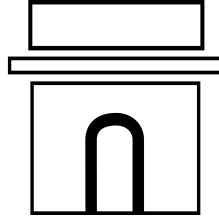


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH
of Greenwich Village



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

“In America I saw the freest and most enlightened men placed in the happiest circumstances that the world affords, it seemed to me as if a cloud habitually hung upon their brow, and I thought them serious and almost sad, even in their pleasures. The chief reason for this contrast is that [they are] forever brooding over advantages they do not possess. It is strange to see with what feverish ardor the Americans pursue their own welfare, and to watch the vague dread that constantly torments them lest they should not have chosen the shortest path which may lead to it. A native of the United States clings to this world's goods as if he were certain never to die; and he is so hasty in grasping at all within his reach that one would suppose he was constantly afraid of not living long enough to enjoy them. He clutches everything, he holds nothing fast, but soon loosens his grasp to pursue fresh gratifications...Death at length overtakes him, but it is before he is weary of his bootless chase of that complete felicity which forever escapes him. At first sight there is something surprising in this strange unrest of so many happy men, restless in the midst of abundance. The spectacle itself, however, is as old as the world; the novelty is to see a whole people furnish an exemplification of it. Their taste for physical gratifications must be regarded as the original source of that secret disquietude which the actions of the Americans betray and of that inconstancy of which they daily afford fresh examples. He who has set his heart exclusively upon the pursuit of worldly welfare is always in a hurry, for he has but a limited time at his disposal to reach, to grasp, and to enjoy it. The recollection of the shortness of life is a constant spur to him. Besides the good things that he possesses, he every instant fancies a thousand others that death will prevent him from trying if he does not try them soon. This thought fills him with anxiety, fear, and regret and keeps his mind in ceaseless trepidation, which leads him perpetually to change his plans and his abode...Men will then be seen continually to change their track for fear of missing the shortest cut to happiness.”

-Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 2.2.13

“The solution to the riddle of life in space and time lies outside space and time.”

-Ludwig Wittgenstein

8/20/23

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Confession of Faith *Colossians 1:15-20*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

For in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and unto him.

And he is before all things.

And in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the church.

Jesus Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that in everything he might be preeminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile unto himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Song

As The Deer

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

[Chorus]

*You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee*

I love you more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye *[Chorus]*

You're my friend and you are my brother
Even though you are a king
I love you more than any other
So much more than anything *[Chorus]*

Song

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful?
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
All to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,
There will be no need for prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless worship
Will be our sweet portion there.

Song

Jesus We Love You

Old things have passed away
Your love has stayed the same
Your constant grace remains the cornerstone
Things that we thought were dead
Are breathing in life again
You cause Your Son to shine on darkest nights

For all that You've done
We will pour out our love
This will be our anthem song

[Chorus]

*Jesus we love You
Oh how we love You
You are the One our
Our hearts adore*

The hopeless have found their hope
The orphans now have a home
All that was lost has found its place in You
You lift our weary head
You make us strong instead
You took these rags and made us beautiful

For all that You've done
We will pour out our love
This will be our anthem song *[Chorus]*

Our affection, our devotion
Poured out on the feet of Jesus
Our affection, our devotion
Poured out on the feet of Jesus
Our affection, our devotion
Poured out on the feet of Jesus
Our affection, our devotion
Poured out on the feet of *[Chorus]*

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

*"Those who do not think about their own sins make up for it by thinking incessantly about the sins of others."
-C.S. Lewis, God in the Dock*

Corporate Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father. We have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have given offense against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done. And we have done those things which we ought not to have done. And there is no health in us.

But you, O Lord—please have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare us, O God, who are now confessing our faults. Restore us as we humbly turn to you for grace, according to your promises declared to humanity in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live sober, righteous and grateful lives. To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Silent Personal Confession

The 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 evil.

Announcements

The Word of God & Sacrament

Scripture Readings

Psalm 49

Message

A Riddle Resolved in Rhyme

Our Response to God's Grace

Song

I Shall Not Want

From the love of my own comfort
From the fear of having nothing
From a life of worldly passions
Deliver me O God

From the need to be understood
From the need to be accepted
From the fear of being lonely
Deliver me O God
Deliver me O God

[Chorus]

*And I shall not want, I shall not want
When I taste Your goodness I shall not want
When I taste Your goodness I shall not want*

From the fear of serving others
From the fear of death or trial
From the fear of humility
Deliver me O God
Deliver me O God *[Chorus]*

Song

My Worth Is Not In What I Own

My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love
At the cross
My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose, in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed
At the cross

[Chorus]

*I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest Treasure,
Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him, no other.
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by

But life eternal calls to us
At the cross
I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ
At the cross [*Chorus*]

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed – my ransom paid
At the cross [*Chorus*]

Intercessory Prayers of the People

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.*

Benediction

"Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And besides you there is nothing on earth that I desire. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:23-26)

PRAYER

- For deacons & elders in training at NCGV, that God would raise up faithful leaders in our community always
- 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 (August)

1.) Niger

- In a coup, a group of soldiers has overthrown the country's democratically-elected leader, President Bazoum. Christians are on high alert, and it remains unclear who is in charge. The nation is home to 24 million people, with the majority being Muslim. Followers of Jesus are in the minority, and organizations like Boko Haram want to use violence to intimidate and quell the faith of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Recently a Christian church was attacked, destroying property and setting fire to the building, and killing male believers. Churches are bracing for an uncertain and difficult future. Please pray and ask God to rise up in defense of His people.

2.) India

- Persecution of Christians has increasingly spread across India, particularly in the state of Manipur. A large mob apprehended two vulnerable Christian women, after which they were beaten and then arrested. Additionally, some of their male relatives were killed as they tried to help. Afterwards an outcry arose, with four men being detained and others interrogated. Prime Minister Modi has stayed largely silent about the violence in Manipur, though recently he stated that this incident is shameful for any civil society, and pledged that the law will take its full course for justice. Pray for justice, for change, and for Modi and leaders to have courage and compassion.

3.) Uganda

- A new believer martyred at the age of 22, Abudu Amisi was attacked and killed for converting from Islam to Christianity. He confessed Jesus to be Lord after a six month journey of learning about the gospel. On July 8th Abudu went to the market along with two young men from his church. People began shouting and calling out Abudu's name, accusing him of betraying Islam and declaring that he deserved death. The crowd began attacking him, and his friends were unable to rescue him. Please pray for his church and our brothers and sisters in this community who knew him and are fearful of what might come next.

4.) Nigeria

- Over 450 Christians have been murdered in villages since May 2023. In that time militants killed Pastor Daniel and Pastor Ayuba. On average about 5000 Christians are killed annually for their faith in Nigeria. Please pray that God would protect and come to the aid of His people, and that legislation would be put into place preventing

such atrocities from recurring in the future, and that other nations (particularly the United States) would designate Nigeria as a country of concern for tolerating the systematic violation of religious freedom.

5.) Egypt

- Pastor Sameh was arrested and detained at the police station for more than 50 days under the pretense of national security. He mysteriously went missing as he was heading home from work. After being captured he was tortured and humiliated. He has been imprisoned now since December 2021 with a court ruling it could be many years of imprisonment, or that he could even be sentenced to death, even though he has committed no crime. Pray for Pastor Sameh and his family and the Christian community he has faithfully led.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fill out the *NCGV Volunteer Survey* (check your email!)
- Small Group Meeting for Leaders & Hosts: Sunday, August 27th @ 4pm
- Next NCGV Congregational Meeting: Sunday, September 3rd @ 4pm after the service
- NCGV Small Groups returning in September

Giving

There are five ways to give to Neighborhood Church.

1. Cash or checks dropped into the offering box at the worship service
2. Checks mailed to: Neighborhood Church, 269 Bleecker Street, New York NY 10014
3. PayPal donations via this link: paypal.me/ngcv
4. Zelle transfers to: 201-988-1044
5. Venmo transfer to @Daniel-Cowles-7

Contact

Phone: 212.691.1770

Mail: 269 Bleecker St., New York NY 10014

Email: ngcv@ngcvnyc.com

Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles

New to Neighborhood Church? Sign up for NCGV's email list here:

