

The following is a sample bulletin from one of our Sunday morning services. While the layout will be different when you see one in person, the content is representative.

**Welcome** | September 12, 2010

On behalf of the congregation of Neighborhood Church of Greenwich Village, I welcome you to our worship service. Our prayer is that your contact with us today would encourage 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)*

This is our hope for,

“. . . the LORD is the true God;  
He is the living God and the everlasting King.”  
*(Jeremiah 10:10)*

Grace and peace to you,

Rev. Kirk van der Swaagh, Pastor

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**A word about our worship --**

*Our hope is that our worship service will provide an encounter with the living God. Toward that end, we have sought to pattern our service after the biblical accounts of when people were 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 each of us this day.*

## Order of Service

### Greeting

Leader: The Lord be with you -

Congregation: And also with you

### *Our Approach to God*

#### Call to Worship | *Psalm 46*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

***Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.***

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

***God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.***

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

***The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.***

Come, behold the works of the Lord,  
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

***He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the chariots with fire.***

“Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!”

***The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.***

### Opening Prayer

#### Confession of Faith | *The Apostle’s Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin, Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried; He descended into Hades; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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.

#### “Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs”

##### ***All Creatures of Our God and King***

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

##### *Refrain*

***O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Thou rushing wind that art so strong  
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice! *Refrain*

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One! *Refrain*

***Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove***  
Come, Holy heavenly Dove. *Repeat*

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
With Your life giving powers;  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
In these cold hearts of ours.

In vain we tune our formal songs,  
In vain we strive to rise;  
Hosannas languish on our tongues,  
And our devotion dies.

Come, Holy heavenly Dove. *Repeat*

Dear Lord, and shall we ever live  
At this poor dying rate?  
Our love so faint, so cold to You,  
And Yours to us so great!

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
With Your life giving powers;  
Come, shed abroad the Savior's love  
And that shall kindle ours.

***God Be Merciful (Psalm 51)***

God be merciful to me on Thy grace, I rest my plea  
Plenteous in compassion Thou  
Blot out my transgressions now  
Wash me, make me pure within  
Cleanse, oh, cleanse me from my sin

My transgressions I confess  
Grief and guilt my soul oppress  
I have sinned against Thy grace  
And provoked Thee to Thy face  
I confess Thy judgment just  
Speechless, I, Thy mercy trust

I am evil, born in sin  
Thou desirest truth within  
Thou alone my Savior art  
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart  
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow  
Wash me whiter than the snow

Gracious God, my heart renew  
Make my spirit right and true  
Thy salvation's joy impart  
Steadfast make my willing heart  
Steadfast make my willing heart

Broken, humbled to the dust  
By Thy wrath and judgment just  
Let my contrite heart rejoice  
And in gladness hear Thy voice  
From my sins, oh, hide Thy face  
Blot them out in boundless grace

### **Confession of Sin and Assurance of God's Grace**

*If we say that 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. 1 John 1:8-9*

During the silence, let us confess our sins to God.

### **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.  
For yours is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

### **Response**

***Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy***  
Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity, love and power.

*I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O there are ten thousand charms*

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh. *Refrain*

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
Lost and ruined by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
You will never come at all. *Refrain*

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Not of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth  
Is to feel your need of Him. *Refrain*

*The Word of God: Proclaimed and in Sacrament*

**Scripture Reading**

Joshua 9:1-21, p. 222

Philippians 2:12-18, p. 1180

John 14:15-26, p.1086

**Message**

“With God’s Help”

Preaching: Kirk van der Swaagh, Pastor

**The Table of the Lord**

*“Let a person examine himself . . . and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”*

1 Corinthians 11:28

***Our Response to God’s Grace***

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Hymn and Offering**

***Grace Like Rain***

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

*Chorus*

*Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me  
Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, washed away*

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

When we been home ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Then when we’d first begun *Chorus*

**Benediction | Ephesians 3:16-19**

According to the riches of his glory, may the Lord grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith -- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth - and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Amen.

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**Question #101**

**But may we not swear oaths by the name of God in a devout manner?**

Yes, when the civil authorities require it of their subjects, or when it is otherwise needed to maintain and promote fidelity and truth, to the glory of God and the welfare of our neighbor. Such oath-taking is grounded in God's Word<sup>1</sup> and has therefore been rightly used by God's people under the Old and New Covenants.<sup>2</sup>

**Question #102**

**May we also swear by the saints or other creatures?**

No; for a lawful oath is a calling upon God, as the only searcher of hearts, to bear witness to the truth, and to punish me if I swear falsely.<sup>3</sup> No creature deserves such honor.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:13; [Cf. Deut. 10:20; Isa. 48:1, Heb. 6:16]

<sup>2</sup> [Cf. Gen. 21:24]; 31:53-54; Josh. 9:15, 19; 1 Sam. 24:22; 2 Sam. 3:35; 1 Kings 1:28-30; Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23

<sup>3</sup> 2 Cor. 1:23

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 5:34-35

## Notes on Sermon

## **The Suffering Church** | *September*

*From our persecuted brethren:*

*We need your prayers to sustain us. Will you stand with us as we live out our lives before the Lord. May the Lord be glorified in all our endeavors.*

**KENYA** | Psalm 46:1 reads, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Please pray that he will give strength, wisdom, and boldness to Christians living and working in regions of this country where there is intense persecution.

**SOMALIA** | Oppressive and cruel Islamist practices are on the rise in this lawless country. Reports have come that secret believers in Jesus have been exposed and killed for their faith in Christ. Pray for the Lord’s protection of our brothers and sisters, and may they be encouraged to remain firm and steadfast in the Lord. Pray as well for the entire population of this impoverished country who are being held hostage by criminals, corrupt politicians, and religious fanatics.

**INDIA** | Pray for the church to take a stand and speak out in unity for religious freedom in this country and that, as they do so, any retaliation from opposing religious factions who want to stamp out Christianity will not be tolerated by the government.

**AFGHANISTAN** | Pray that reconciliation might take place between various groups. And pray that the people of this country will be able to live in peace, under a stable and honest government, free from the oppressive dictates of sharia law and the Taliban. Our brethren need much wisdom as to how they are to live out their faith in this place. Let us stand with them in prayer, asking God that they would be safe and effective as they witness to the truth.

These are difficult situations that need much prayer and support. As fellow believers let us endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).

Galatians 6:2; 2 Timothy 3:12; Hebrews 13:3; James 5:16b; Psalm 5:11-12

## Noteworthy

### PRAYER

- Please continue for Joshua Roberts, son of Jack and Pat Roberts of the Bronx Household of Faith, who underwent reconstructive surgery on his upper jaw. He is in a great deal of pain. The complete process to reach the desired goal will take months and continue to be painful.
- And for Pat Roberts; a cancerous lump was recently discovered in one of her breasts. Pray for success in treatment
- For James and Wella Keyes as they anticipate the imminent arrival of their baby
- For Judith Chaikin as she makes preparations for retiring from work at the end of the month
- For the missionary work of Andrew and Esther Schaefer in Burkina Faso
- For the missionary work of the Javier & Gloria Gil in Cali, Colombia
- For the work of Open Doors
- For the efforts of the Bowery Mission

### ACTIVITIES

#### This Week

- Tonight, 7 PM, Village Vespers, evening contemporary service
- Tuesday, 6:30 PM, College Group
- Wednesday, 6:30 PM Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* CANCELED THIS WEEK

#### Upcoming

- October 6, Quarterly Congregational Prayer meeting
- October 15, Book reading by author Joel Hartse
- October 21, Presentation on New York City's founding by Arthur Marx
- October 23, Day conference on Jonathan Edwards

Sunday Sermons are available at [sermonaudio.com/ngcv](http://sermonaudio.com/ngcv)

CONTACT US: 212.691.1770 [ncgv@ncgv.net](mailto:ncgv@ncgv.net) Web site: [www.ncgv.net](http://www.ncgv.net)

#### Church Officers:

Carl Dobrowolski, Elder; Daniel Cowles, Deacon

Jesse Peterson, Associate Pastor; Kirk van der Swaagh, Pastor

## The All Things Project

The All Things Project is an effort in neighborhood-based cultural engagement in four key arenas of human endeavor: intellectual, aesthetic, community building, and spiritual.

The Apostle Paul wrote of God that, “of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:36). This means that, in one way or another, all things have the potential of revealing truth about God and His ways. Through our All Things Project, Neighborhood Church of Greenwich Village seeks to make the ever-present truth of God known.

We do this because we believe that when the truth is manifested, whether through the spoken word, painted canvas, well-tuned instrument, or compassionate gesture, because it is the truth, it embodies and communicates the eternal character of the unchanging, true God. We are confident that the more we share God’s truth with our neighbors the more we mutually learn who He is and His design for our lives.

## Currently

**SAM’S BOOK OF MARTYRS** (or 'Acts and Monuments of these Latter and Perillous Days, Concerning Matters of the Church')

An homage to 'Foxes of Book of Martyrs', the classic (and notoriously graphic) 16th century account of courageous “common-day saints”, the curator implicates himself as Grand Inquisitor. Ten artists with considerable conviction—well-known, almost known, unknown, young and old and deceased—submit work, but ARE COMPELLED TO DO SO UNDER PSEUDONYMS. One of the artists co-curates as collaborator.

All the artists’ egos may be “killed off”, but their identities and stories pass on by word-of-mouth by those who care. The public comes to watch the spectacle and, maybe on a good day, reflect upon sacrifice and personal conscience, great loss or gain. When all is said and done, the question remains: is there a cause large enough to offer one’s own life or, conversely . . . to summarily dispatch another’s life?

The artists presented are: Barracuda, Bi Lu, Ettes, The Hippopotamus, Saint Bobolinck from the Order of Princess JungleBerry, A.B. Schwuchow, Sky lers, the Late Wanda Shamanskya, among others.

SAM’S BOOK OF MARTYRS is the third of four exhibitions curated by Samuel W. Kho for All Things Project in 2010. The curatorial appointment, in its second year, is made possible by generous grants and gifts. More info at [www.allthingsproject.wordpress.com](http://www.allthingsproject.wordpress.com) and [www.ncgv.net](http://www.ncgv.net).

## UPCOMING

October 15, Book reading by author Joel Hartse, *Sects, Love, and Rock & Roll*

October 21, *Nieuw-Amsterdam*, presented by Arthur Marx on the founding of New York City