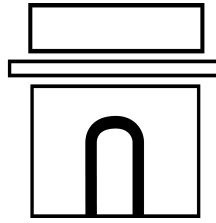


NEIGHBORHOOD  CHURCH  
of Greenwich Village



Meeting at 46 Barrow Street @ 10:30am

“What other time or season can or will the Church ever have but that of Advent!”  
-Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* IV/3.1

“A prison cell is like our situation in Advent. One waits, hopes, does this or that—ultimately negligible things—but the door is locked and can only be opened from the outside. That is how I feel just now”  
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, letter on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1943 from Tegel prison to his friend Eberhard Bethge

“God accepts no one except the abandoned, makes no one healthy except the sick, gives no one sight except the blind, brings no one to life except and dead, and makes no one holy except sinners.”  
-Martin Luther, *WA* 1.183.39-184.7

**12/11/22**

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**

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*Our Approach to God*

**Call to Worship**

*Luke 1:5-45*

**Opening Prayer**

## **Hymn**

### *O Holy Night*

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our Friend.  
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, your King, before Him bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

## **Confession of Faith** | *Philippians 2:5-11*

We believe that Jesus Christ, even though he was in the form of God, did not consider equality with God a thing to be used for his own advantage. Rather, he emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of humanity. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

And we believe that God desires each of us to have this same attitude in our own lives, which was also in Jesus.

## **Hymn**

### *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

*[Chorus]*

*Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light *[Chorus]*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth *[Chorus]*

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn *[Chorus]*

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

### **Corporate Confession**

Holy God, your name is excellent, your glory high, your compassion unfailing, your condescension wonderful, your mercy tender. We bless you for the promises of the gospel, for in them is pardon for rebels, liberty for captives, health for the sick, salvation for the lost.

May your approval be our only aim, your Word our only rule. In many things we have offended, in all come short of your glory; pardon our iniquity, for it is great. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Mediator.

### **Silent Personal Confession**

#### **Assurance of Grace**

*"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy."*  
(Proverbs 28:13)

#### **Response**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*[Chorus]*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*  
*shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory over the grave. *[Chorus]*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *[Chorus]*

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *[Chorus]*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times did'st give the law  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe. *[Chorus]*

### Scripture Readings

Genesis 17:1-27 (*Brandon Snyder*)

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 (*Katherine Woo*)

Romans 4:13-25 (*Arturo Villanueva*)

### Message

Nevertheless: The Double Laughter of the Gospel

### 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

*All Glory Be To Christ*

Should nothing of our efforts stand, No legacy survive,

Unless the Lord does raise the house, In vain its builders strive.

To you who boast tomorrow’s gain, Tell me, what is your life?

A mist, it vanishes at dawn, All glory be to Christ.

*[Chorus]*

*All glory be to Christ our King,*

*All glory be to Christ!*

*His rule and reign we’ll ever sing,*

*All glory be to Christ!*

His will be done, His kingdom come, On earth as is above.

Who is Himself our daily bread, Praise Him the Lord of love.

Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price.

Come eat of Him, our Living Bread, all glory be to Christ. *[Chorus]*

When on the day, the great I Am, the faithful and the true,

The Lamb who was for sinner’s slain, Is making all things new.

Behold our God shall live with us, And be our steadfast Light,

And we shall e’er his people be, All glory be to Christ. *[Chorus]*

### Benediction

*“But the words ‘righteousness was counted to Abraham’ were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” (Romans 4:23-25)*

We who must die demand a miracle.  
How could the Eternal do a temporal act,  
The Infinite become a finite fact?  
Nothing can save us that is possible:  
We who must die demand a miracle.  
-W.H. Auden, *For The Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*

## PRAYER

- That God would open up a new, larger location for us to worship in on Sunday mornings in Greenwich Village
- For peace and the cessation of violence and war in the nation of Ukraine in light of Russia's unprovoked invasion
- For the genocide against the Uyghur people in China to come to an end
- For Nate Harp & Jen Yu as they begin their new marriage
- Pray for healing for Megan as she receives ongoing cancer treatments
- For Hiyori Nishimura as she continues her graduate studies and ministry to Japanese students in NYC, that God would provide everything she needs for her calling and faithfulness
- For Noel Chou, as she begins raising support to go on staff with Wycliffe Bible Translators
- For Manjari R., a young missionary in an Arabic-speaking nation in the MENA region (Middle East/North Africa) who is beginning her long-term ministry there. Pray for Manjari for: (1) finding a long-term missions team in her region as her first initial term of service comes to a conclusion, (2) ongoing financial support to remain on the field in the years to come, (3) favor and blessing over relationships with cousins (non-Christians) to be invited deeper into community with local friends, (4) grace & wisdom in language-training and cultural adaptation
- 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; 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

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

### FOR DECEMBER:

#### Bangladesh

- A brother in Christ was attacked by his own family when he was found out to have converted to Christianity. In spite of the physical violence against him, he still lives with his family as he has nowhere else to go. Please pray for his protection, that the Lord would give him grace to continue following Jesus and to be a witness to all.

#### Indonesia

- A woman, after having dreams about the Lord, became a believer. When her family found out they cut her off from all association and support. Pray that that the Lord would strengthen her and that other Christians would rally around her to support her holistically.

#### Philippines

- A sister was called a traitor by neighbors for following Jesus. The emotional pain of many who face regular ostracization and social pressure is so often very deep. Pray for the presence and consolation of God's Spirit among those who suffer for their faith like this.

#### Egypt

- A Christian brother was killed outside his workshop. His attackers claimed they killed him because of their loyalty to Allah demanded this response. Please pray for all Christians who face threats of violence, along with restrictions of their human rights simply because they claim the name of Christ.

#### Sudan

- Four young men were arrested in a church raid in Sudan, where they were worshipping together. They were beaten and then legally charged under an apostasy code that was supposed to have been abolished in 2019. Pray that these believers will be released and will receive impartial justice.

#### Myanmar

- Believers in Myanmar often have to live like unwanted outsiders in their own country. Ongoing civil war has been used as an excuse for raids on churches, including some bombings. Christians have been displaced from their homes. Pray that God will give them relief from this violence and will keep them safe as they seek to be faithful followers of Jesus.

Eph. 6:18; 2 Tim. 3:12; John 16:33; Gal. 6:2

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **For activities on zoom:**

<https://tinyurl.com/ngvzoom>

### **Upcoming**

- NCGV Small Groups have begun! Lower Manhattan (Tuesdays), Queens/LIC (Wednesdays), & UWS/West Harlem (Thursdays). Email [nick.nowalk@gmail.com](mailto:nick.nowalk@gmail.com) if you are interested in checking out a small group.
- Avail NYC visits us TODAY (December 11th) after the service at 1pm
- **NCGV Christmas Party! Friday, December 16th @ 7pm (269 Bleecker Street)**
- Special Christmas Day service: brunch w/ sharing & prayer at 269 Bleecker Street
- No New Year's Day service on January 1st
- Winter Coat Drive—if you have a warm winter coat to give away, contact Adam Tyson ([adamtyson@gmail.com](mailto:adamtyson@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://paypal.me/ngv)
- Zelle or Venmo transfers to 201-988-1044

### **Contact**

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Pastor: Nick Nowalk; Deacon: Dan Cowles



Neighborhood Church is a member of the  
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference