

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 11th 3rd Sunday of Advent Bells Sunday No Sermon Reflection	8:45 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 3 pm	Music Room Sanctuary Music Room Room 103 Fellowship Hall Fellowship Hall	Sr. Choir Rehearsal Worship Service Youth Choir Cherubs Congregational Meeting Christmas Concert
Monday, December 12th	7 pm	Lounge	Advent Study
Tuesday, December 13th	4:45 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Lounge Glendale Nursing Home Kingsway Nursing Home	Warm up caroling Caroling
Thursday, December 15th	3 pm 7:30 pm	Lounge Sanctuary	Advent Study Sr. Choir Practice
Saturday, December 17th	9 am 10:30 am 2:15 pm 3 pm 4 pm	Sanctuary Lounge Heritage Home Judson Meadows	Poinsettias Set-up Sr. Choir Practice Warm up caroling Caroling
Sunday, December 18th 4th Sunday of Advent Music Sunday??? Extra Mission-M & SC	8:45 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11 am 3 pm	Music Room Sanctuary Music Room Room 103 Fellowship Hall Lounge Parsonage	Sr. Choir Rehearsal Worship Service Youth Choir Cherubs Coffee Hour Sermon Reflection Open House

NRC Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a family of people seeking to be of help to each other and to our world through the encouragement of God's Spirit and the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To that end, we offer opportunities for worship, friendship, personal growth and service.

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am

December 11, 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Please remember to turn off cell phones or put on airplane mode,
if cell phones remain on, they interfere with the sound system.*

Let the first note of the prelude be a call to quietly prepare for the significance
of the experience that is before you.

Announcements

**Passing of the Peace

Prelude *Angels from the Realms of Glory* *Stickles*

Introit

Votum *Mary Ivey*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

The Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Lord!

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The mighty One has done great things for us!

Holy is God's name!

Let us worship God.

**For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to
generation God gives mercy.**

*Hymn *Praise the Lord: Ye Heavens, Adore Him* **3**

Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle *The Rizzi Family*

our military personnel for their service and God Bless America!

- The Congregational Care Committee has arranged two Christmas Caroling events this December for our church family to visit nursing homes where some of our elderly members reside. The groups will sing Christmas Carols to them and present the members with small gifts made by the Women's Fellowship Group. Communion will be offered to those who would like to receive it during our visit. All are welcome to join us. If you are interested, please call Ellen 785-5575 . We will carpool from the church parking lot. Everyone is welcome to go to one event or both. Let's make it a special time for all!

The itineraries are as follows:

Tuesday, December 13th

4:45 pm meet in the lounge to rehearse briefly and carpool

5:30 pm Glendale Home

6:30 pm Kingsway Manor

Saturday, December 17th

2:15 pm meet in the lounge to rehearse and carpool

3:00 pm Heritage Home

4:00 pm Judson Meadows

TODAY

If you are a visitor to our worship service today, we welcome you. May this time of praising God and learning of His plan for our lives be helpful to each of us. If you wish to be identified as a guest, please help us to get to know you by meeting the greeter at the rear of the sanctuary and receive a visitor's bag of information about our church.

- Parents with infants and small children are reminded of the room behind the balcony with an audio system to hear the worship service. There is infant and toddler care in Room 102 of the Education Bldg.
- Our greeter(s) today: Brian & Jackie Maclutsky.
- Join the Music Company Orchestra for some **Holiday Magic**. Our Christmas concert is @ **3pm** and will be dedicated to long-time friend and parishioner **Theodore G. Mihran**. Concert is free and open to the public.
- The flowers on the Communion Table are in loving memory of her sister, Patricia Trathen, by Eileen Eldred.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Birthday wishes go out to Matthew Whelan, Jr.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Worship teams for **December 18th**: Ushers: Donna Gaunay, Paul Alois, Pat Zink & Norma Lovell; Counters: Alan Holmes, Jeff Rivenburg & Peter Nickel; Greeter(s): Ann Duncan; Coffee Hour: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**
- Pastor Jason & Jennifer will be hosting an Ugly Sweater Open House on **Sunday, December 18th** from 3–5 pm. We encourage people to come in ugly Christmas sweaters but they are **not** required.
- Thank you to our congregation for supporting the Operation Adopt a Soldier. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help our soldiers know that we appreciate what they do for our country. We donated \$1000 to this organization, collected more than 500 items for care packages, and 23 Christmas cards were made by our Sunday school children. We thank

The Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed. You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark! You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all! Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(continue in silent reflection)

The Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.

The Call to New Life

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Anthem

Carol of the Bells
Eendracht Bell Choir

Ukrainian Carol
arr. J.W.Krug

THE WORD OF GOD

Junior Sermon

The Interlude

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

God of love and power, you are revealed to us in your Word, in accounts of prophecy and fulfillment that direct our attention to Jesus Christ. Illumine us now as we hear your Word proclaimed, that we may open our hearts to him, yearn for his coming in glory, and serve him with joy. Amen.

New Testament Lesson 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Bible page 204-205 NT

This is the Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1: 18-25 Bible page 1 NT

This is the Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

*Hymn *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* **160**

Sermon "How Is He Coming?"
Rev. Jason Fulkerson

Silence

The Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Offering

The Offertory *Carols of the Manger* arr. R.E. Schram
Eendracht Bell Choir

Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.***

***And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.***

The Choral Amen

*Hymn *Joy to the World* **161**

The Benediction

*The Benediction Response

The Postlude *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* *Whipple*

*Those who are able, please stand.

Congregational responses are printed in bold type.

**We encourage you to fellowship with our church family members by passing of peace prior to the beginning of the church service.