

## ***We Enter God's Presence***

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Announcements

Prelude      Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming - Traditional/Deford

Votum

It is good when we gather "together", wherever we may be, that we remember

**Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of the heavens and earth.**

Call to Worship – based on Mark 1

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the son of God

**As it is written in the prophet: "See, I am sending my messenger before you..."**

God give us eyes to see

**God give us ears to hear**

Welcome

\*Hymn of Gathering      For the Beauty of the Earth      2

Prayer of Confession (based on Mark 1)

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

**Lord, we live our days as though we are not in the presence of your kingdom. We neglect to turn around and believe your presence in this world.**

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

**Forgive us for not heeding your call to proclaim the good news,  
following you and gathering in our neighbors and world into your net  
of love and forgiveness.**

Assurance of Pardon – Ephesians 2:4-5 & Mary Oliver's "Wild Geese"

**But because of his great love for us,**  
God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were  
dead in transgressions—  
**It is by grace you have been saved.**

(Mary Oliver's poem, "Wild Geese")

*You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.*

***Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.***

*Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.*

***Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.***

Instructions for Living

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied:  
**Love the Lord your God will all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:  
**Love your neighbor as yourself.**  
All the law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Special Music

### ***The Word of God***

Junior Sermon

Prayer of Illumination

God, as the sun brings daylight and color to the world and the full winter moon gives us vision in the darkness, so may your Spirit guide our reading and understanding.

Psalm Reading  
Gospel Reading

Psalm: 111  
Mark 1: 21-28

This is the Gospel of our Lord!  
**Praise be to You, O Christ!**

Message:               *"What Have You To Do With Us?"*

Prayer of Blessing

### ***We Respond to God***

\*Hymn of Thanksgiving      All Creatures of our God and King      100

Prayer of Consecration, Thanksgiving, and Intercession

**Lord's Prayer**

Benediction

Postlude                Fantasia on Forest Green - English Melody/Broughton

### Announcements

"CAN" YOU HELP? SiCM's newest campaign for collecting all types of canned food to replenish their Food Pantry. NRC will have two blue bins in Education Building for this purpose. You can drop off your canned goods Monday-Friday, after 1:30 pm. **This drive will run till March 31, 2020.**

Due to our current health issues, this familiar event, well supported in the past by our congregants, will have a different form. Instead of Sunday school students manning tables at coffee hour, with canisters in hand, our church will have an opportunity to donate via PayPal. There will be a drop-down option labeled Souper Bowl Fundraiser under "one time contribution" for your convenience. Donations will be collected through **February 21, 2021**. Thank you for your continued support of SiCM's goal to fight hunger.

Did you know that you can set up your contributions through PayPal? You can arrange to have your contact free donation delivered securely and safely to the church. You can access the PayPal link on the church website at: [www.niskayunareformed.org](http://www.niskayunareformed.org), on the bottom of the home screen. First click online giving, then click "reoccurring contributions" and the drop-down button will show you all your options, now INCLUDING MISSION COLLECTION. You can set it up to be automatically generated every week or every month, whichever you prefer. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen at [office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org). We always appreciate your support!