

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 14, 2021
REV. ABBY NORTON-LEVERING

As we gather together for worship, may you be reminded that you are loved and cared for by God, and called to spread that love to the world. May God quiet your heart so that you may hear his voice and sense the power of his almighty presence.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

The Lord be with you.
And also, with you.

Announcements

Prelude Love Medley - Marilyn Ham

Votum

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths shall declare your praise.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, AMEN!

Call to Worship

Creator God: you burst the universe into life. You are in every atom and every soul.
We rejoice that you sent your son Jesus, to live in our midst and shine with your light!
We break off from the frazzle and the dazzle of daily life to focus on you,
to re-calibrate our tired engines, to recover our lost perspective,
and renew our sense of purpose.
We open our hearts to your love,
our minds to your wisdom and our souls to your presence.
Let us be fully present for you and wholehearted in our worship today. AMEN

Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling 399

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God who separated light from dark in the creation of the world, we admit the world seems so dark to us these days. We need your light now more than ever. Forgive us for the part we play in perpetuating the darkness.

Time of silent reflection.

Grant us the strength, courage and compassion to carry your light into the dark places in the world, even the shrouded places in our own hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, we pray. AMEN

*Words of Assurance:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Whom shall I fear?

There is no hopelessness, no failure, no discord, no suffering that is not ultimately transformed in the bright light of Christ.

Christ's light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out!

Call to New Life

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Let us live together in peace,

comforted, upheld, and strengthened by the presence of Christ in our midst. **AMEN**

Special Music

Menuett by Stolzel and Trio by J.S. Bach

Nancy Tellier

THE WORD OF GOD

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

First reading: 2 Corinthians 4: 3-18

Gospel Reading

Mark 9: 2-9

Sermon

"Seeing and Believing"

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

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Prayer of Consecration, Thanksgiving, and Intercession

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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.

Benediction

Go out into the world in peace.

Give no person evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted;

support the weak;
honor all people.
May the blessings of God:
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be with you now and always.

Postlude Look and Live/True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted
William Ogden/ George Stebbins

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 of your canned goods Monday-Friday, after 1:30 pm. **This drive will run till March 31, 2020.**

Due to our current health issues, the "Souper" Bowl Fundraiser, which has been 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.

Here are a couple more SiCM announcements. The Crop Walk Team Leader Rally will be via zoom on **February 24, 7 PM**. Please see SiCM website for sign up. The CROP WALK (virtual) is scheduled for Sunday May 2. Lastly, please welcome to Rev. Dr. Amaury Tanon-Santos, SiCM's new Executive Director.

Our February Mission of the Month will benefit The Schenectady City Mission. The City Mission exists to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our community. The Mission's goal is to provide "not only HELP for today but HOPE for tomorrow"! In 2020 the City Mission provided 28,485 nights of shelter, 188,916 meals, 1,200 weekend backpack meals, free clothing, free medical clinics, as well as community wide picnics. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

We love appreciating the musical talents of our congregation and zoom allows us to enjoy the gifts that others have to offer! If you are interested in recording and sharing a musical contribution, please contact Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org and we will get you scheduled for one of our services! You can share music by recording a video of your piece, or you could perform live if you want (but please set up a sound check with us in advance to make sure this goes smoothly)! If you would like piano accompaniment, Rebecca is happy to make a recording and send you a track to use, as long as you send her sheet music.