

**NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

THE REV. JONATHAN VANDERBECK

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          Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (In the setting of J.S. Bach's Fuga II)  
John Hughes/Cindy Berry

Votum

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth!

Call to Worship\* (written by the Rev. Joanna Harader from Peace Mennonite Church)

We come to worship this morning from different places.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

"Deny yourselves."

**O God, do not be far from us.**

"Take up your cross."

**O God, do not be far from us.**

"Follow me."

**O God,**

**we thank you for drawing near to us**

**in this place,**

**in our lives.**

**Amen.**

Hymn          Will You Come And Follow Me          Tune: KELVINGROVE          insert

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Everloving and merciful God. In this journey into Lent, we are reminded again of the brokenness of the world around us. We confess our need for you in these uncertain times, acknowledging when we've gone astray. Help us not be given over to despair, but help us cling to hope. In the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, we pray. AMEN**

Words of Assurance

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Call to New Life

And in response to God's covenant love for us, we respond to God's continual call on our lives as echoed in the words of the prophet Micah who asks: What does the Lord require of us?

**To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.**

Special Music

### **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: Psalm 22:1-2; 8-15; 19-31

Second Reading Mark 8:31-38

Sermon "Forsakenness"

### **THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Hymn Be Thou My Vision 303

Prayer of Consecration, Thanksgiving, and Intercession

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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

Cleansing Fountain - James Mansfield/Appalachian Folk Melody

### Announcements

Today's service will be uploaded to the NRC channel later today. Please subscribe to Niskayuna Reformed Church on YouTube to see all our services. You can also access the service on the front page of the church website. Just click "watch the 9:30 am service". This will be posted by Monday morning and will stay on the for the entire week.

"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.**

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](mailto: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.

After a 1-year COVID-induced hiatus, the History & Archives Committee is ready to get going again. Lots of fascinating activities expected for 2021. The meeting will be by Zoom on **March 9 at 6:30 PM**. Please contact the church office ([office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org)) if you are interest in finding out more about the work of the committee or simply want to come to the meeting to see what it is about.