

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

REV. DR. BILL 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 The Spirit - Kerby

Votum

Heavenly Father, we trust in your power, even as it is found in weakness; we trust in your wisdom, even as it is expressed in seeming foolishness; we trust in your wholeness, even as it comes to us amid brokenness. And thus, we say, "Our help is the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth." **Amen.**

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us worship God.

Hymn

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

insert

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of all, we pray for your presence in a dark and cold time. Be with us as we struggle with pestilence and pride in all parts of our lives together. We confess that we are often selfish and shortsighted and need your help to lift our eyes to behold eternal truths in new applications. Give us the courage to transform our lives, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Fear not. For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Call to New Life

Michah 6:8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your 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 Thy sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Psalm Reading Psalm 146:5-10 (read responsively)

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:37-40

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,^[a] you did it to me.'

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

Sermon "Stranger and Stranger"

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 91

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 In the Town - Traditional 15th Century French Melody/Scott

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" (see image below) 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. There will be the “Fill the Van” Fundraiser at the Niskayuna COOP on **February 12** from 10-5-all food items as well as personal care items are needed. 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. More information will be forthcoming.

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!

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, 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. We always appreciate your support!

Directions to access the Members' Directory on the NRC Website:

Step 1 – www.niskayunareformed.org

Step 2 – Once in the website, scroll all the way to the bottom. In the gray area, look at *Quick Links* (second column). The last thing on the bottom of the list is **Members area**. Click on that.

Step 3 – It will ask you to login. You should use your username or email and Password. If you don't have your password, hit "lost password" and it will instruct you to get a new one.

Step 4 – Now that you are signed in, it will say *Members*. In red, you will find **Members directory**; click on that.

Step 4A. If nothing opens, right click on the Member Area icon and choose the first option – Open Link in a New Tab

Step 5 – Either a box will come up that says *password*, OR you might get a PDF icon that shows up at the bottom left of the screen which is labeled *73946564 church...pdf*. Click on that, then it will ask for the password

Enter *Password* – **DO NOT USE YOUR PERSONAL PASSWORD** – Everyone needs to type the following in either the box or the pdf: **password**

Once you type the word **password**, hit Submit and the directory will come up.

The directory is for members only which is why it is secured.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office and someone will get back to you.