

**NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH**

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 18, 2021

REV. JONATHAN VANDERBECK

**THE APPROACH TO GOD**

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude      God Himself is Present      Burkhardt

Votum

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

Call to Worship

In this Eastertide, when new hope breaks through with timid wonder

**God give us strength**

In this Eastertide, when resurrection comes from the ashes

**Savior give us hope**

In this Eastertide, when death is beaten, life has come

**Spirit give us peace**

Renew us, Creator, Savior, Spirit. Let us live into the good news of Easter and give praise to you: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

\*Hymn      Jesus Christ is Risen Today      204

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Everloving and merciful God. In the season of Easter, we know that new life springs up amidst what has died. Yet, we also confess that it is sometimes hard to see that hope. We are reminded every day 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 Savior 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.



May the blessings of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you now and always.

Postlude

All Glory Be to God on High

Burkhardt

\*Please remain seated

### Announcements

- There will be **NO** in-person Sunday School today but there will **STILL** be zoom at 11am.
- Plans are underway for this year's Women's Retreat about ***Living in God's Garden*** on **Saturday, April 24 at 10:00 am**. Due to the lingering pandemic, this year's program will again be held on Zoom rather than in person. It will include some wonderful topics (Container Gardening, Butterfly Gardening, Flower Arranging, Virtual Tour of Gardens Around the World, Capital Roots ...) given by speakers with expert knowledge of their subjects. Registration is now open. There is no cost, but we ask that you pre-register no later than April 21 by contacting Sharon Jackson at [sei832@aol.com](mailto:sei832@aol.com) or 518-783-9137.
- Now that we are back into in-person services, NRC is live streaming our Sunday services on YouTube. You may have seen (or sometimes heard) our stream team up in the balcony running the camera and the sound system. We will admit to not always being (technically) perfect, but we do have fun and are most pleased to be able to provide this service for the members of our Church family who may not be able to join us in person. Please consider joining the team. Teenagers this is a great volunteer opportunity that would look good on your college applications. If you're interested, want more information or want to see how it works before deciding, contact Leo Lichtig @ [lichtl@aol.com](mailto:lichtl@aol.com)
- Brooks BBQ will be this Wednesday, **April 21<sup>st</sup>**, 3 PM – 6 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Cerone @ 518-339-7504 or [purdyka@aol.com](mailto:purdyka@aol.com). If you are unable to volunteer, the best way you can help us is to swing in and purchase a great meal.
  - Dinners (half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll/butter, and cookie): **\$12.00**
  - Half Chicken only: **\$8.00**

**There will be no preorders, just sales on the day of the event!**