

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church  
March 6, 2022  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Rev. Rett Zabriskie

*Preparation for Worship*

*Noah was by no means simply careless; he did not dally with the thrill of danger; but after he had done his part, he let God shut the door behind him. For ourselves we cannot dot the i's and put the period after our life program. The moment comes when we must step back and allow ourselves to be pushed, because we know that Another has shut the door behind us* Helmut Thielicke

**The Approach to God**

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude: Christian, Follow Me!

Ellen Jane Lorenz

Introit

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
**Amen**

The Call to Worship: (*Psalm 32*)

**Leader:** Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**People:** Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**Leader:** I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

**People:** Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

**Leader:** Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

**People:** Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

\*A Hymn: Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!  
written by Fanny Crosby, composed by Phoebe P. Knapp

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\*The Salutation and People's Amen: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: **Father in Heaven, we confess to you our fear of being alone, which has been increased and focused by Covid. We depend on our neighbors, O God and we do not like being isolated. Grant us to know your presence that our loneliness may be filled. Have mercy upon us and forgive our sin. In Jesus Name. AMEN**

Kyrie Eleison: **Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance

\*Gloria Patri: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Anthem: When I Think of You

Ruth Artman

### **The Word of God**

The Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson:

Psalm 22

Epistle Lesson:

Romans 10:8b-13

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

The Junior Sermon

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 4:1-13

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

\*Hymn          Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days          181

written by Claudia F. Hernaman, St. Flavian hymn tune from Day's Psalter, 1563

Sermon:          "Songs In a Strange Land: Desolation"

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

### **The Response of God's People**

Offering

Offertory          Come, Be Fed

Ruth Elaine Schram

\*Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Meaning of the Sacrament

The Invitation

The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**For it is holy and right to do so!**

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty .... adore your glorious name.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Most righteous God .... Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died!  
Christ is risen!  
Christ will come again!**

The Words of Institution  
Sharing of the bread and the cup

Communion

Poeme

Gertrude Haupt Richolson

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer: **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.**

\* Hymn

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

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written by Elizabeth C. Clephane, uses the St. Christopher tune composed by Frederick C. Maker

\*The Benediction

Benediction Response

The Postlude:

Chanson

Bertha R. Frick

\*Please stand if you are able.

## **Announcements**

Lent is a season of penitence. The word is not used much now and has come to mean simply a feeling - being sorry, regretting, etc. Penitence, however, is not a **feeling**, it is an **act**. "The undergoing of some discipline, voluntary or imposed by spiritual authority, in an outward expression of repentance." says the Oxford English Dictionary. Psalms is the book in which penitence lives. During Lent, the Lectionary readings will be read but they will be tangential in the sermon.

“Songs in a Strange Land”, penitence in our strange world as focused by Psalms will be our Lenten journey. The five will be: Psalm 22; Psalm 23; Psalm 130; Psalm 107; and Psalm 24.

International Women's Day will be celebrated on March 8th this year. An annual celebration of women composers has been launched by the Royal College of Organists and the Society of Women Organists in conjunction with the American Guild of Organists, and is celebrated today, the nearest Sunday to International Women's Day. Niskayuna Reformed Church is participating in this celebration this year, reflected in the music featured in today's service.

Our new interim minister, Reverend Rett Zabriskie will be in the office Thursday mornings from 9-10:30. Otherwise, any time the American flag is flying outside the parsonage, you are welcome to stop over and come right in! You can reach him by calling his cell at 201.819.7629. Please call him directly to set up visits. To help Rev. Zabriskie learn our names, we ask that you wear your name tags on Sundays. If you need a name tag, please contact Ellen.

For three Sundays in Lent, we are going to have an extended conversation between me and you on the general topic of the future of the Christian Church in general and NRC in particular. These sessions are going to be “Coffee Hour Conversations”, in the hope that all manner and sorts of people can participate - including families and kids. For the three sessions, Coffee Hour will begin as usual - however after 15 minutes of the normal chat at tables, I am going to ask that we have a group conversation.

The sessions will be:

**TODAY—March 6, 2022: Session I "I just feel at home here" Gathering Language for Talking About a Congregation**

March 20, 2022: Session II “Back to the Family Farm”

April 3, 2022: Session III "Whad'Ya Know?"

The NRC Sunday School will be holding a Communion Workshop for students in 3rd grade and above in March. This workshop will teach students about the Holy Sacrament of Communion and prepare them to participate in this beautiful ritual with us in the future (they will also get to make a stole to take home!). The Communion Workshop will be held on March 13th at 11am. For more information, please contact Sabrina at [christianed@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:christianed@niskayunareformed.org)

With Spring around the corner(hopefully), SiCM's collection for March will be dedicated to "Spring Cleaning". All cleaning supplies welcome, from sponges and dish detergent to mops and dryer sheets. Supplemental food cards do not cover these items, making it difficult for families already struggling. Thank you for continuing kindness and generosity to our Schenectady neighbors.

Just a reminder, we still have **TWO** coffee hour ZOOMS every week that take place on *Wednesday morning at 10am and Sunday morning at 10:45am.*

**Use Same link for both:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670146771?pwd=cENjQ2d1QldFdFQ0RHdFem82NCtqQT09>.

If you use the link above, you shouldn't need a passcode, but if you get asked, the passcode is 413853

Our **March Mission** will benefit the works of the NRC's History & Archives Committee. The Mission of the committee is to promote awareness of the rich history of Niskayuna Reformed Church as a place of worship and fellowship and preserve historical records and artifacts for the congregation, community and future generations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Thank you, thank you NRC for your VERY generous donation to SiCM's 2022 SouperBowl fundraiser. We contributed \$380 this year-a record for us. Consider scheduling a visit or volunteering to see your money at work, providing a community resource to those in need.

Due to COVID 19, we will not be ordering memorial azaleas and lilies for Easter this year. We will **still** be doing an Easter Memorial bulletin. We will be working off last year's bulletin. If you have **NO** changes to your memorial from last year and you want it to remain the same, there is no need to contact the office. If there are any changes or you would like to add a memorial, please contact Ellen at [office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org) or 518-785-5575 by April 1st.

Parents with infants and small children are reminded of the room behind the balcony with an audio system to hear the worship service if needed.

## Scripture

### Psalm 22

- <sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
- <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.
- <sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> In you our ancestors trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- <sup>5</sup> To you they cried, and were saved;  
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup> But I am a worm, and not human;  
scorned by others, and despised by the people.
- <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock at me;  
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
- <sup>8</sup> “Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—  
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”
- <sup>9</sup> Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
- <sup>10</sup> On you I was cast from my birth,  
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near  
and there is no one to help.
- <sup>12</sup> Many bulls encircle me,  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- <sup>13</sup> they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.
- <sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;
- <sup>15</sup> my mouth<sup>[a]</sup> is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup> For dogs are all around me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me.  
My hands and feet have shriveled;<sup>[b]</sup>

17 I can count all my bones.  
They stare and gloat over me;  
18 they divide my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.  
19 But you, O LORD, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!  
20 Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my life<sup>[c]</sup> from the power of the dog!  
21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued<sup>[d]</sup> me.  
22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;<sup>[e]</sup>  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
23 You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
24 For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,<sup>[f]</sup>  
but heard when I<sup>[g]</sup> cried to him.  
25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
26 The poor<sup>[h]</sup> shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
May your hearts live forever!  
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.<sup>[i]</sup>  
28 For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.  
29 To him,<sup>[j]</sup> indeed, shall all who sleep in<sup>[k]</sup> the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.<sup>[l]</sup>  
30 Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,  
31 and<sup>[m]</sup> proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

## Romans 10:8b-13

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say?

“The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because<sup>[a]</sup> if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

### **Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil<sup>[a]</sup> led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil<sup>[b]</sup> said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil<sup>[c]</sup> took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

