

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
May 8, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Rev. Norman J. Tellier, D.Min.

Preparation for Worship: I can more easily see our Lord sweeping the streets of London than issuing edicts from its cathedral. -Dick Sheppard

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude: "Adagio" from Organ Concerto II J.S. Bach

The Introit

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

The Call to Worship: (from Psalm 118)

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

In our anguish we cried to the Lord; God answered by setting us free.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

The Lord is our strength and our song: God has become our salvation.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

We will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let us worship God.

We worship in spirit and in truth.

*A Hymn: Welcome, Happy Morning

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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**

Sermon: "Doubting Thomas"

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

*Hymn: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done 203

The Offering

Offertory: No Greater Gift Schram

The Doxology (#544) and Prayer of Consecration

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: Thine Is the Glory 209

*The Benediction

*Please stand if you are able.

The Postlude: 'Füge in E Minor" J.S. Bach

Announcements

Today, we welcome guest organist Katherine Storms!

Reverend Rett Zabriskie will out until May 10th. We welcome our very own guest preacher, Rev. Norman Tellier!

Our May Mission of the Month Collection will benefit Camp Fowler a Christian Camp and Retreat Center that is a non-profit children's camp grounded in openness, hospitality, and compassionate Christianity. Camp Fowler's function first and foremost is as a summer camp, aiming to provide space for children to

be themselves, learn from those who are different from them, and intimately experience wonder and love. In the off-season, they offer retreats that revolve around themes of stewardship, relationships, youth ministry and spirituality—most of which are open to the public. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

As we welcome the month of May and celebrate all the mothers we've known and loved, our Mission and Service Committee will be collecting special women's items for the SiCM pantry to share. Hygiene products, skin care, fragrances, soaps, shampoo etc. would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, NRC family, for your continued support!

Calling all church members! The property committee is meeting next **Monday, May 9th at 7 pm** in Classroom 104 (last classroom on your left on the first floor of the Education Building. Scott Haefner has been overseeing the various immediate needs of the property committee, but he is looking for input from the congregation to help identify issues and develop a priority list for tackling those various issues at the church campus. Ideas are welcome but he also needs your help getting the various tasks done. He can't do it alone. Please come TOMORROW and voice your opinion and times that you are available. If you can't make it, please email Scott at hefnersg@gmail.com with your ideas.

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 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;^[a]

³ he restores my soul.^[b]

He leads me in right paths^[c]
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[d]

I fear no evil;
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely^[a] goodness and mercy^[f] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.^[g]

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.^[a] She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Jesus and Thomas ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands

and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.