

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
March 5, 2023
Second Sunday of Lent
Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements

Prelude I Surrender All in the setting of Beethoven's Sonata No. 8
"Pathetique" Adagio Cantabile Weeden/Berry

Introit

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

The Call to Worship: (Responsive):

Jesus Christ,
our Rabbi and Redeemer,
we come seeking you this morning,
out of the darkness of this world,
with the limits of our own minds
and despite the false piety of our own egos.

Teach us to be born anew.

Free us from our false flesh.

Tune our hearts,
to the wind of your Spirit,
and lift up before us,
the wonder of heavenly things.

Give us faith to see anew.

Speak to us once again,
of your love for the world,

the gift of your only Son,
and the promise of eternal life
for all who believe.

**Lead us to live anew,
as lovers of the light.
Amen.**

*Hymn of Worship “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

399

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

Prayer of Confession: (Responsive)

God you know me.

You know that I can be loving and kind;
and you know that sometimes I get things wrong.
I'm sorry for the times I hurt other people,
forget to listen to you,
and don't bother to take care of your world.

**May God forgive you,
Jesus bless you,
and God's Spirit help you to grow in love.**

Amen.

God you know us.

**You know we can be loving and kind;
and you know that sometimes we get things wrong.
We're sorry for the times we hurt other people,
and forget to listen to you
and don't bother to take care of your world.**

May God forgive you,
Jesus bless you,
and God's Spirit help you to grow in love.

Amen.

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

Words of Assurance: John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that God gave the one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

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 Thy Will Be Done Courtney

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 3:1-8

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

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-21

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

Sermon *“Making a Way – Born from Above”*

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” 236

The Response of God's People

The Offering

Offertory

He Shall Feed His Flock

Handel

*The 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 comes 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

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 of Worship “To God Be the Glory” *insert*

*The Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Postlude Beneath the Cross of Jesus Mansfield/Maker

Please stand if you are able.

Announcements

We continue to have weekly Book/Bible studies on Philip Yancey’s, The Jesus I Never Knew. Groups meet on Monday evenings at 7:00pm and Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in the lounge of the Education Building. All are welcome and there are still plenty of books available. You can read along with the group, or on your own, or just come and join the conversation. The bible study runs through April 5th.

You're invited! Join members of the RCA restructuring team and GSC staff leadership for an in-person, roundtable event TODAY from 4-6 pm in Fellowship Hall. During this time, attendees will hear what the restructuring team has been working on and the outcomes around which they feel called to restructure, after much discernment. There will also be a time for attendees to ask questions and provide feedback on what is presented. This invitation is for RCA members in your area, **especially young people with a heart for the RCA's future**. No RSVP is necessary.

What does it mean to be a welcoming community of faith? This is a question that the Consistory has been discussing (since the pre-covid

days) within the broader context of diversity, equity and inclusion. Our conclusion, after prayerful contemplation, is that it means living the message “All are welcome” that our website proclaims. We ask you to join us in a time of reflection and discussion during coffee hour on March 19th as we explore the ways in which our church family can continue to grow in love and faith.

Easter lilies (\$10.00) and azaleas (\$15.00) are now on sale. If you would like to purchase a plant(s), please send your check and a note saying you will be taking home a plant(s) to the church office. We are also taking donations to cover the cost of the plants we will need to purchase. We will be doing a memorial bulletin and working off last year's bulletin. If you have NO changes, there is no need to contact the office. If you have any changes/additions, contact Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org or 518-785-5575 by **Friday, March 31st.** The bulletin will be included in the April 9th Easter bulletins.

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit World Renew. World Renew envisions a world where people experience and extend Christ's compassion and live together in hope as God's community. World Renew seeks to bring generational change in communities all around the globe. Through partnerships with different churches and organization they help target five main issues: Peace and Justice; Community Health; Food Security; Economic Opportunity and Disaster Response. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

For the SiCM collection for March we will be collecting **TOOTHPASTE AND TOOTHBRUSHES**

The following items will always be accepted by the Mission and Service Committee and collection boxes are on the first floor of the Education Building:

- **Eyeglasses** and **hearing aids** for the **Lions Club International**
- **Empty pill bottles** (labels removed, please) for the **Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, OH.**
- **Small white bottles** with caps such as those used for Boost or baby formula for the **SICM Food Pantry**

Scripture

Proverbs 3:1-8

My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
² for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.
³ Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them round your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴ So you will find favour and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.
⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
⁸ It will be a healing for your flesh
and a refreshment for your body.

John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.'^[c] ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You^[d] must be born from above."^[e] ⁸ The wind^[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰ Jesus

answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you^[a] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[b] ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[c]

¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.