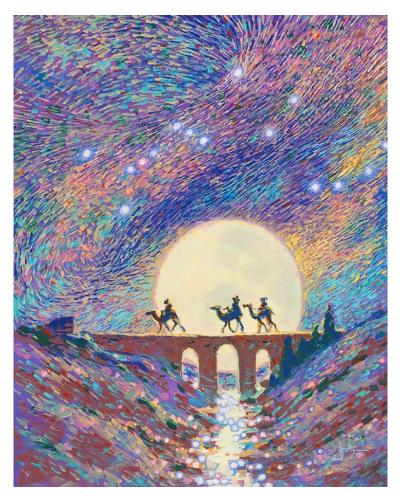
# Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church January 7, 2024 First Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen



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#### THE APPROACH TO GOD

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

Welcome and Announcements

\*Prelude

Introit

Votum

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

## Call to Worship: (Responsive):

The Magi had a dream.

They dreamed of a Messiah.

They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

They journeyed to unknown places.

They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

So may we be like the Magi.

May our dreams inspire action.

May we worship the one true God. Amen.

\*Hymn of Worship

"We Three Kings"

The Hymnbook, 176

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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.

#### **Announcements**

January is going to be for the RCA Global Missionary Refugee Services directed to JJ TenClay who is the Missionary for Global Refugee Services. JJ connects churches and individuals in North America to the growing number of refugees worldwide and invites them into the sacred space of caring for people seeking refuge–locally, nationally and globally–through refugee sponsorship, advocacy, prayer, partnering with local refugee care agencies, and fundraising for carefully vetted refugee care projects worldwide. JJ also continues to build a network of international mission partners responding to humanitarian crises who care for the people displaced by these crises, and consults on individual cases of displaced people seeking humanitarian protection. Visit JJ's missionary page at: <a href="https://www.rca.org/tenclay">www.rca.org/tenclay</a> to learn more about her ministry.

The office will be closed on January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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Benediction Response

The Postlude Impressions on We Three Kings

Fedak

\*Please stand if you are able.

Liturgy adapted from: www.sanctifiedart.com

Cover Art by: Joni Earekson Tada

#### Call to Confession:

As we celebrate the journey of the Magi, following the star to worship the Savior.
Let us confess our own wrong turns, our refusals to yield, the ways we get lost, and the impact of not asking for help when we need it.

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me. I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right. I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one. Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.

Now and again, the stars disappear.

My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.

On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.

Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.

I want to be as brave as the Magi.

I want to persevere.

Guide my feet. Lead me to you. Amen.

## Kyrie Eleison:

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

## Words of Assurance: 1 John 1:6-7

"If we claim to have fellowship with God and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from all sin."

\*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

Do You Hear What I Hear? The NRC Senior Choir Arr. Simeone

#### THE WORD OF GOD

Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Bible page 690 OT

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

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Bible page 2 NT

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

Sermon

"Those Who Dream...Seek God"

Pastor Sherri

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

The Hymnbook, 174

#### The Response of God's People

Offering

Offertory

Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Bach

The NRC Senior Choir

\*The Doxology 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, 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

Prayers of the people and 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

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

Lift Up Your Hearts, 102

\*The Benediction