

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church  
January 21, 2024  
Third Sunday after Epiphany  
Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen**

**The Approach to God**

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

Welcome and announcements

Prelude In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham/Cook

Introit

Votum

John Moak

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

The Call to Worship: Psalm 62:5-12

For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from the LORD.

**God alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

On God rests my deliverance and my honor;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

**Trust in the LORD at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before the LORD;  
God is a refuge for us.**

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

**Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O  
Lord.**

**For you repay to all according to their work.**

\*Hymn of Worship "All the Way My Savior Leads Me"

**The Hymnbook, 365**

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

Ordination & Installation of New Consistory Members

Anthem Praise the Lord with Heart and Voice

Haydn

### **The Word of God**

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading:

Jonah 3:1-5,10

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

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20

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

Sermon "Shaped by The Kingdom"

Pastor Mike

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship "God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us"

**The Hymnbook, 122**

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

The Offering

Offertory Glory and Worship are Before Him

Purcell

\*The Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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 “Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated”  
**The Hymnbook, 310**

\*The Benediction

Benediction Response

\*The Postlude O Christ-Child Sweet Bach

\*Please stand if you are able.



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## Announcements

In this New Year we are offering to you a new resource entitled, “Seeking God’s Face – Praying with the Bible through the year.” It is a devotional book that we want to encourage you to use along with the whole congregation. Each day’s reading includes a portion of a Psalm, a Bible Reading, some thoughts for dwelling in God’s presence, prayers, and a parting blessing. These readings are for each day of the year, and we will use them to help shape our words for worship each Sunday. We hope this resource will help you connect more deeply with God on a regular basis and help connect us as a congregation. We have books available in the Narthex for you to please take one per family. The books are free with a suggested donation of \$20.00 for medium print, and \$37.00 for large print (limited number available) to help cover the cost if you are able. You can also obtain your own electronic copy on Kindle if you prefer at Amazon.com. If all the books we currently have are claimed, we will have a sign-up sheet to get more as needed.

A winter Discipleship small group is beginning the week of January 22! One group will meet online through Zoom at 7:00pm on Monday evenings, the other group will meet in-person on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am in the lounge. We are calling these groups “Deepening Our Discipleship, Spiritually and Emotionally.” These groups are open to all and there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we can know who will join us either in person or by Zoom.

The January Mission is dedicated to 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: [www.rca.org/tenclay](http://www.rca.org/tenclay) to learn more about her ministry.

2025 will be the 275th anniversary of Niskayuna Reformed Church and we want to CELEBRATE! Consistory is seeking your ideas and input to make our anniversary meaningful and memorable for the entire community. All are invited to join the first planning meeting on **Sunday January 28** at 11:00 AM. No sign-up is necessary. For questions, please contact any member of Consistory.

Friday January 26, 2024, is our next opportunity to help serve dinner at the Schenectady City Mission. **Anyone who has never served before needs to go to their website at [www.citymission.com](http://www.citymission.com) and create an account for themselves.**

Time: Arrive by 4:30 to help set up

Serve dinner from 5-6

Clean up and depart by 6:15.

Please text Michele Kopp at 518 424 3825 if you have any questions.

City Mission link for sign up is:

<http://nrc.citymissionofscheneectady.volunteerhub.com/>

Thank you.

Join the Schenectady City Mission on March 16 from 6-10 PM at the 408 in Saratoga for an exciting musical event. The group Dueling Pianos will be performing their magic, music and helping our community at the same time. RSVP by February 28. More information can be found at CityMission.[com](http://www.citymission.com)/Dueling Pianos.

## Scripture

### Jonah 3:1-5,10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

<sup>3</sup>Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” <sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

### **Mark 1:14-20**

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” <sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.