

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church  
February 11, 2024  
Transfiguration Sunday  
Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen**

**The Approach to God**

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

Welcome and announcements

Prelude    Divinum Mysterium (Of the Father's Love Begotten)    Clemens

Introit

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

Call to Worship

The mountain top,  
the transfigured form,  
the dazzling clothes,  
the appearance of Moses and Elijah,  
the voice from a cloud.

**Sometimes God shows up,  
in ways we cannot deny  
in a place we can go  
a light we can see,  
a company we know,  
a voice we can hear.**

Sometimes  
there is a veil,  
the overshadowing, terrifying cloud  
the questions  
the appearing and disappearing,

the excitement  
the wondering  
the silence.

**Sometimes God shows up,  
in ways we cannot deny,  
or fully understand.**

Always God shows up,  
somehow.

**So, we have shown up,  
here, now, to worship.  
May God give us eyes to see.**

\*Hymn of Worship "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"  
Lift Up Your Hearts, 730

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

Call to Confession:

In confession of our sins and our sorrows,  
let us journey to the mountain top with Jesus,  
that in the light of his transfiguration  
we may know his power to heal, change, and restore,  
and follow him down into the valley.

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**Eternal God,  
we confess that while we long for it,  
we often do not expect,  
the transforming power of your love  
to work miracles in this world,  
or in these hard hearts of ours.  
Yet we secretly desire a rescue, an escape, a miracle,  
to relieve us of the responsibilities and challenges you set before us.  
Healing Spirit, renew our confidence in your power,  
and in the power of love to change this world and our lives,**

**In your mercy, renew our courage,  
to be the fully responsible people  
Christ calls us to be. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison:

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

Words of Assurance: Based on 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 NRSV

Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.  
And all of us, with unveiled faces,  
seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror,  
are being transformed into the same image,  
from one degree of glory to another,  
for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and transformed!  
Praise be to God!

\*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

He Watching Over Israel

Mendelssohn

### **The Word of God**

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading:

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

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

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-9

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

Sermon "Mountains & Valleys"

Pastor Mike

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship "Open My Eyes, that I May See"

**The Hymnbook, 390**

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

The Offering

Offertory He that Shall Endure

Mendelssohn

\*The Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 "Be Thou My Vision"

**The Hymnbook, 303**

\*The Benediction

Benediction Response

\*The Postlude Fantasia on "Forest Green"

English Melody/Broughton

\*Please stand if you are able.

Call to Worship adapted from: Joanna Harader and posted on the website Spacious Faith.

Confessional Liturgy from: The Worship Sourcebook. CRC Publications, 2004.

Cover art: "Transfiguration" by James Janknegt



## 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 being offered. One group meets online through Zoom at 7:00pm on Monday evenings, the other group meets 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.

Easter lilies (\$15.00) and azaleas (\$20.00) 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 need to purchase. PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE THIS BEAUTIFUL TRADITION. 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 518-785-5575. **The deadline for bulletin changes is Friday, March 22nd.** The bulletin will be included in the March 31 Easter Service bulletin.

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/Dueling Pianos](http://CityMission.com/DuelingPianos).

Hannaford & SiCM Fundraiser!

- SiCM will receive \$1 for each \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag sold throughout February 2024.
- Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program Nonprofit Partner: **262 Saratoga Road, Route 50, Glenville NY**
- By going to the Hannaford location mentioned above, you can help

benefit SiCM and the food pantry. If you do not need any more reusable bags, you can always donate them to the food pantry!

## Scripture

### 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"<sup>[a]</sup> made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

### Mark 9:2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.