

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
February 4, 2024
Fifth 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 Dulci Jubilo (*In Quiet Joy*)

Dupre

Introit

Votum

Joyce Anderson

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

Call to Worship Psalm 147

Praise the LORD!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God,
for God is gracious, and worthy of a song of praise.**

The LORD builds up God's city and gathers the outcasts.

The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds their wounds.

The LORD determines the number of the stars and gives them all their names.

**Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, God's understanding
cannot be measured.**

The LORD lifts the downtrodden and casts the wicked down.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to God with music.

God covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth,
and makes grass grow on the hills.

God gives food to the animals, and to the young ravens when they cry.

God's delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor in the speed of a
runner;

but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear God,

**in those who put their hope in God's steadfast love.
Praise the LORD!**

*Hymn of Worship "*We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer*"
The Hymnbook, 17

*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 our confession let us be honest about our "taking"
for ourselves, and from the world,
selfishly, greedily, and violently.
Then by God's mercy let us celebrate our "receiving"
from God's table of abundance,
communally, generously, and peacefully.

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes
and our happiness than to your will.
We have eaten without a thought for the hungry.
We have spoken without an effort to understand others.
We have kept silence instead of telling the truth.
We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge.
We have acted rather in accordance with our opinions
than according to your commands.
Within your church we have been slow to practice love of our
neighbors.
And in the world we have not been your faithful servants.
Forgive us and help us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ,
your Son, our Savior.
Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison:

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

Words of Assurance: Isaiah 40:28,30-31

"Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Giving power to the faint and strengthening the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.”

*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 Sing Praise to God Handel

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

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

Gospel Reading Mark 1:29-39

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

Sermon “*Deep Roots, Long Branches*” Pastor Sherri

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship “I Am Thine, O LORD”

The Hymnbook, 320

The Response of God's People

The Offering

Offertory

Ave Verum Corpus

Mozart

*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

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 “Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds”
The Hymnbook, 485

*The Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Postlude Grand Jeu et Duo Sejan

*Please stand if you are able.

Prayer of Confession: The Worship Sourcebook. CRC Publications, 2004.

Cover Art: <https://www.gcclakewood.org/messages/deep-roots-long-branches>.



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.

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

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶ For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel. ¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. ³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.