Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church February 18, 2024 First Sunday of Lent Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen



3041 Troy Schenectady Road Niskayuna, NY 12309 www.niskayunareformed.org 518-785-5575

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THE APPROACH TO GOD

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

Welcome and Announcements

*Prelude "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" (Margaret) setting, Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

Introit

Votum Scott Haefner

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

Call to Worship (Responsive):

You came to the Jordan, where you were baptized by John, received the Holy Spirit, and a voice from heaven called you – "Beloved."

You came to the wilderness, where you were tempted by Satan, camped with wild beasts, and were attended by angels.

You came to Galilee, where you proclaimed good news, offered an alternative kingdom, and called us to repent and believe.

We have come to worship you -

Where we can remember our belovedness, find courage and care for our temptations, hear the good news of God's kingdom, repent, believe, and share it with the world!

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.

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!

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Announcements

Our guest organist today is David A. Vredenburg. David is part of the Eastern New York Chapter, American Guild of Organists (AGO). Welcome David!

Our Mission for February will benefit our own mission group. The Mission and Service Committee will use the donations for our 2024 "Soup Kitchen" expenses. Our church members volunteer at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen up to 8 times a year. These dedicated volunteers shop, prepare and serve nutritious meals to the hungry. The average monthly cost to provide the food for the meals in 2023 was \$330. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you! In February we be collecting **Laundry Supplies**— laundry soap in liquid and pods, dryer sheets, fabric softener, etc.

There will be 5 soup and bread Lenten evenings on Thursdays beginning February 22 and continuing until Maundy Thursday, March 28. They will begin at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. These evenings will include a light soup and bread supper and a brief time of worship and prayer using "Seeking God's Face." We will conclude before the Choir rehearsal begins. All are welcome! We are still in need of volunteers to help provide soup and bread each week. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

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 Faster 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

*Hymn of Worship "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

The Hymnbook, 184

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

Call to Confession: Based on Hebrews 4:15-16

Remember that our Lord Jesus Christ is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses. In every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Most merciful God
whose Son, Jesus Christ,
was tempted in every way, yet was without sin,
we confess before you our own sinfulness;
we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;
we have compromised with evil;
we have doubted your power to protect us.
Forgive our lack of faith;
have mercy on our weakness.
Restore in us such trust and love
that we may walk in your ways
and delight in doing your will. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison:

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

Words of Assurance: Psalm 25:6-7,10

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.

*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 Wondrous Love Shackley
The NRC Senior Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22 Bible page 234 NT

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

*Gospel Reading Mark 1:9-15 Bible page 34-34 NT

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

Sermon "Watermark of Love" Pastor Sherri

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

The Hymnbook, 181

The Response of God's People

Offering

Offertory Lead Me, Lord
The NRC Senior Choir

Wesley

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 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

The Hymnbook, 379

*The Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude On Nettleton setting, Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

(*)Please stand if you are able.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession: <u>The Worship Sourcebook.</u> CRC Publications, 2004.

Cover Art: "Baptism of Jesus" by Mike Moyers.

^{*}The Doxology and Prayer of Consecration