

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
March 3, 2024
Third Sunday of Lent
Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen**

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements

Prelude Love Medley

Ham

Introit

Votum

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

Call to Worship Psalm 19 (Responsive):

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

**Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.**

The law of the LORD is complete,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;

**May these words of my mouth
and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, LORD,
my Rock and my Redeemer.**

*Hymn of Worship "Gather Us In"

Lift Up Your Hearts, 529

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

Call to Confession:

Jesus went to church
and drove out all those
making a profit from prayer.
We are welcome to come
and confess our sins and our struggles
because the price has already been paid,
and grace is a gift.

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.
We confess that it is still all too easy for us
to sacrifice our convictions for convenience,
your standards for status, your principles for promotion,
your absolutes for our ambition,
our souls for shallow and unsatisfying success.
How easily we are seduced by power, prestige, pleasure,
or possessions—
seduced into violating our integrity or harming our fellowship with
you.
From earth's fullest bliss we turn to you again, unfulfilled.
Forgive us our half-hearted devotion and our double-minded spirit.
In the name of him who refused to save himself we pray. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison:

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

Words of Assurance: Romans 2:22-24

"This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.
There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall

short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

*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 O How Amiable Vaughan Williams

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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

*Gospel Reading John 2:13-22

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

Sermon Shaped by The Cross – Foreclosing Foolishness Pastor Sherri

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

The Hymnbook, 241

The Response of God's People

The Offering

Offertory O Taste and See Vaughan Williams
 Sharon Greene, soloist

*The Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

Communion When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Mason/Ham

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 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
The Hymnbook, 198

*The Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Postlude The Old Rugged Cross Bennard/Hughes

(*Please stand if you are able.

Cover Art by: Bernadette Lopez



Announcements

Discipleship small groups online Monday evenings and in person Tuesday mornings will continue until March 18 & 19. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Mike.

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit **Safe Inc. of Schenectady**. Since 1985 they have led the effort to get youth out of the "street life" and into a safe environment where staff work with youth to empower them and change their future. They have worked tirelessly to address the social issue of human trafficking and child exploitation for over 30 years. For more information, please see their website at safeincoschenectady.org. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The Mission & Service Committee, along with the Sunday School kids, will be collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes until Palm Sunday for the Food Pantry.

We are having soup and bread Lenten evenings on Thursdays 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 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).

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”^[a]

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

John 2:13-22

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” ²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build

this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.