

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church  
March 10, 2024  
Fourth 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 Ich Ruf' Zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ  
(I Call To Thee, Lord Jesus Christ) Bach

Introit

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

Call to Worship (Responsive)

God loves us with a steadfast love.

**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so!**

God loves us so much God gave us God's Son.

**Let us believe and have eternal life!**

God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

**Let us have faith to receive this grace!**

Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good.

**Come, let us worship the LORD!**

\*Hymn of Worship "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

**The Hymnbook, 400**

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

Call to Confession:

John tells us,

“If we claim to have fellowship with Christ and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.”

So let us come and confess our darkness and our sin, that we may walk in the light as Christ is in the light and find fellowship with the one who purifies us from all sin.

**Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**Holy God, we have not lived in the light.**

**We have not walked as Jesus did.**

**We compromise all too often,  
living both for you and for ourselves.**

**Your word calls us to account  
and your Holy Spirit convicts us.**

**We fail to love others,  
instead choosing to live in darkness.**

**Please cleanse us with your holy light  
as we confess our brokenness to you. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison:

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

Words of Assurance: 2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of 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

Thy Will Be Done

Courtney

**The Word of God**

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading:

Numbers 21:4-9

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

\*Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21

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

Sermon Shaped by The Cross – In Light of The Cross

Pastor Mike

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship “O Light, Whose Beams Illumine All”

**The Hymnbook, 145**

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

The Offering

Offertory God So Love the World

Stainer

\*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 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

**The Hymnbook, 195**

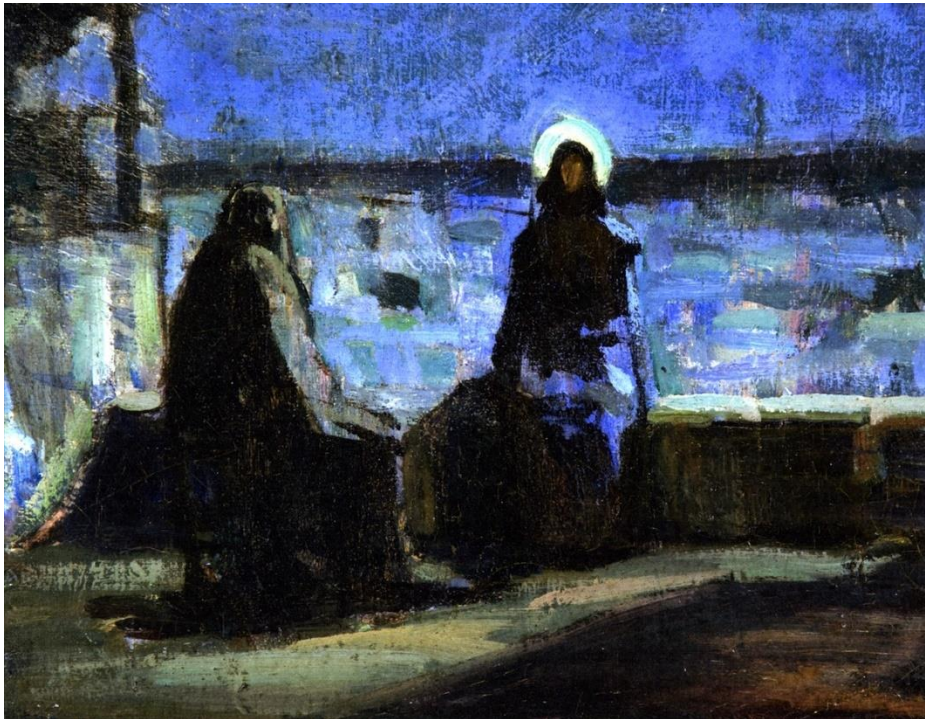
\*The Benediction

## Benediction Response

\*The Postlude Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott Lasst Walten  
(He Who Will Suffer God To Guide Him)

Bach

(\*Please stand if you are able.



Cover art from: <https://davidould.net/nicodemus-a-conversion-story/>

## 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.

This morning, we welcome representatives from Safe, Inc. of Schenectady, our March Mission of the Month.

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).

## Lenten Calendar

Here's the schedule of activities for the rest of Lent. We hope you can join us!

**March 14,21** – Thursday Soup and Bread Prayer Evenings (A light soup and bread dinner followed by a time of prayer and reflection. 6:00 to 7:15pm. (Come join us before choir!).

**March 28** – Maundy Thursday Potluck and Service with Communion – Fellowship Hall 6:00pm.

**March 29** – Good Friday – Church open for prayer – 9:00am to 8:00pm.

**March 31** – Easter Sunrise Service-6:30am in the Cemetery or the Lounge  
Easter Church Service – 9:30am in the Sanctuary

## Scripture

### Numbers 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

### John 3:14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.