

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
March 17, 2024
Fifth 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 Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryggare kan Ingen Vara (Swedish Melody, 1858)

Arr. Larry Sue (ASCAP)

Votum

Scott Haefner

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

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Lord, following in the footsteps of some Greeks,
who went up to worship at the festival,

We would like to see Jesus.

We know the hour is quickly coming,
for the Son of Man to be glorified.

**Stir the soil of our hearts,
and plant in us the kernel of your truth,
from death can grow seeds of new life.**

We don't always know what it means,
to love and hate, to keep and lose, to serve and follow.

We get confused and others get hurt.

So, come to this hour and meet us as our Savior,

**Receive our praises, teach us your word,
hear our prayers, and grant us your mercy,
Then send us out with renewed purpose as your people.**

As you are lifted up in our worship –

draw us to yourself. Amen!

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

The Hymnbook, 181

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

Call to Confession:

Let us come together and confess our sins,
not to escape judgement,
but to be held by love.
Not to look back with regret,
but to look forward with hope.
Not because we fear death,
but because we have been promised new life.

Prayer of Confession (Responsive): Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins.

For we know our transgressions, and our sins are ever before us.

Against you, you alone, we have sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, we were born guilty, sinners when our mothers conceived us.

You desire truth in our inward being; therefore teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.

Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

Let us hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

Kyrie Eleison:

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

Words of Assurance: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

*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 To God Be the Glory

William Doane (1875)

Arr. Larry Sue (ASCAP)

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

*Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

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

Sermon “Shaped by The Cross – Dying To Grow New Life”

Pastor Sherri

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship “Jesus Paid It All”

insert

The Response of God's People

The Offering

Offertory When Irish Eyes are Smiling

Music: Ernest R. Ball

Lyrics: Chauncey Oleott & Geo. Graff, Jr (1927)

Bell Transcription J.S. Friderici

The Bell Choir Invites the Congregation to join in on the second chorus:

When Irish Eyes are smiling
Sure its like a morn in spring
In the lilt of Irish laughter
You can hear the angels sing
When Irish hearts are happy
All the world seems bright and gay
And when Irish eyes are smiling
Sure, they steal your heart away

*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 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

The Hymnbook, 194

*The Benediction

*The Postlude Christ Lag In Todesbanden
(In Death's Strong Grasp The Savior Lay)

Bach

(*)Please stand if you are able.

Cover Art: "Wheat Field with Cypresses" by Vincent Van Gogh



Announcements

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 safeincofschenectady.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 (March 24th) 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.

Lenten Calendar

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

March 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 – 8:00am 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³² It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to^[a] them,^[b]"
declares the LORD.

³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'

because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

John 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up^[a] from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.