

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday
Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen**

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements

Prelude The Palms

Faure

Introit

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

Call to Worship

Among the poor,
Among the proud,
Among the persecuted
Among the privileged,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

In the private house,
In the public place,
In the wedding feast,
In the judgement hall,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

With a gentle touch,
With an angry word,
With a clear conscience,
With burning love,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

That the kingdom might come,
That the world might believe,
That the powerful might stumble,
That the hidden might be seen,

Hosana!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

Within us, without us,
Behind us, before us,
In this place, in every place,
For this time, for all time,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

Hosanna in the highest!

*Hymn of Worship “Hosanna, Laud Hosanna”

The Hymnbook, 185

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

Call to Confession:

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem
and then later pronounced “Crucify him,”

we are fickle people who often deny Christ
in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Remembering the events of Jesus’ last week
helps us see ourselves for what we are:
sinners in need of a Savior.

In honesty and hope,
let us confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**Gracious God, having heard your Word,
we thankfully remember the life
of our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth.**

**Yet we also acknowledge our failure
to respond earnestly and faithfully to his witness.
We often mistake Jesus for a mere earthly king,
friendly companion, or problem-solver,
failing to see him as the ruler of all creation.
We do not appreciate the depth
of his passion and sacrifice on the cross,
failing to acknowledge him as our way of salvation.
Even in this Lenten season, we have not walked faithfully
in the way of Jesus Christ.
Forgive us, we pray, and bring us ever more fully
into the joy of union with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison:

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

Words of Assurance: Psalm 118:19, 21 NRSV

“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and
give thanks to the LORD. I thank you, that you have answered me and have
become my salvation.”

*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 When O'er the Steep of Olivet

Maunder

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading:

Zechariah 9:9-10

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

*Gospel Reading

Mark 11:1-11

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

Sermon “Shaped by The Cross – Finding our place in the parade!”

Pastor Mike

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

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The Response of God's People

The Offering

Offertory Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates

Handel

From Messiah

*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 “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”

The Hymnbook, 188

*The Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Postlude Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Herzog

(*)Please stand if you are able.

Call To Worship: Adapted from The Iona Abbey Worship Book. Wild Goose Publications, 2017.

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

Cover art: Augustiner museum, Freiburg – “Christus auf Palmesel”



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 and Service Committee is planning our first Brooks BBQ of the 2024 season. It will be Wednesday, April 17th, 3 PM – SOLD OUT. We need volunteers to help the day of the BBQ. There will be a need for inside help: assembling the chicken dinners, bagging dinners, and transporting dinners

to the pickup tables. Outside help: ticket sales, ticket counter to keep track of the number of chickens sold, traffic direction, and runners to take assembled dinners to the cars. We will also need volunteers to bake brownies. Please bake at least 3 dozen brownies **without nuts**, cut them into approximately 3 x 3 squares and put them into individual plastic baggies.

There will be volunteer will be signup sheets for the day of the BBQ and baking brownies in the main hall of the Education Building, starting March 24th. If you can volunteer April 17th, please plan on being there by 2:15pm, as we usually start selling before 3:00pm.

If you are unable to make it into church and would like to volunteer in some way, please call me (Kim Cerone) @ 518-339-7504 or email me at purdyka@aol.com. Please leave your name and contact information, and I will get back to you.

The Women's Fellowship Group, together with the Mission & Service Committee, will be holding a **Bake Sale on Tuesday, April 2**, which is New York State's Presidential Primary Election Day. The sale will be held in the lobby on the ground level of the Education Building. It will run from **9 am until 5 pm** or sold out. We invite you to treat yourself to some goodies after doing your civic duty! All proceeds will benefit church programs.

Church members Penelope & Phoebe Stafford, led by scout leaders Erin Bagdriwicz and Mandie Stafford will be selling cooking on April 14th and 21st as part of girl scout troop 5062 in the parking lot from 9 am- 1pm on the far end of the Education Building. The girls have picked a local no kill animal rescue to support this year with the profits from their cookie sales.

It is that time of year when NRC will begin our 2024 service at the Salvation Army of Schenectady. Lunch dates have so far been scheduled for **April 9, May 14 and June 11**. This is a commitment from about 9:30am until 1:30pm. We will be serving monthly from April until November, so if you are unable to join us at the above dates, maybe we will catch you at another time! If you are able to help us prepare and serve meals to our neighbors, *please call or text Sue Lichtig at (518)421-1734*. Thank you!

Holy Week Calendar

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

Zechariah 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem,

and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River^[a] to the ends of the earth.

Mark 11:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, ⁸ he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road,

while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!^[a]”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”^[b]

¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.