

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
March 31, 2024
Easter 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 Antiphon

Vaughan Williams

Introit

Votum

John Moak

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

Call to Worship (Responsive):

Joyful is the sound we make this morning!

For this day liberates us from doubt and fear.

Thankful is the song we sing!

For this day moves us past darkness and despair.

Hopeful is the prayer upon our lips!

For this day awakens in us long-awaited new life.

At the tomb it was proclaimed, "Do not be alarmed;
you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.

He has been raised."

Christ lives here and now.

He is among us at this and every moment!

May this glorious news be our praise, our peace, and our purpose.

Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Come, let us worship our risen Savior!

*Hymn of Worship "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!"

The Hymnbook, 204

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

Litany of Easter (Responsive):

Lord God,
early in the morning,
when the world was young,
you made life in all its beauty;
you gave birth to all that we know.
Hallowed be your name.
Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning,
when the world least expected it,
a newborn child crying in a manger
announced that you had come among us,
that you were one of us.
Hallowed be your name.
Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning,
surrounded by respectable liars,
religious leaders,
anxious statesmen,
and silent friends,
you accepted the penalty for doing good,
for being God:
You shouldered and suffered the cross.
Hallowed be your name.
Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning,
a voice in a guarded graveyard
and footsteps in the dew
proved that you had risen,
that you had come back
to those and for those
who had forgotten, denied, and executed you.
Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

This morning,
in the multicolored company
of your church on earth and in heaven,
we celebrate your creation, your life,
your death and resurrection,
your interest in us,
and your redemption of all creation!

Hallowed be God's name, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Worship: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" **The Hymnbook, 213**

Anthem When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Arr. Martin

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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

*Gospel Reading Mark 16:1-8

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

Sermon "Reflections on The Resurrection" Pastors Sherri & Mike

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship "The Day of Resurrection" **The Hymnbook, 208**

The Response of God's People

The Offering

Offertory The Old Hundredth Psalm

Vaughan Williams

*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 "Here I Am, Lord **Lift Up Your Hearts, 869**

This hymn was selected in honor and celebration of the life of Robert "Bob" Gardner-Thanks be to God for his life and witness!

*The Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Postlude Hallelujah

Handel

(*Please stand if you are able.

Cover Art: Women At The Tomb by Graham Braddock.

Call to Worship and Litany of Easter from: The Worship Sourcebook. CRC Publications, 2004.

Guest Musicians:

Marla Bracco, Michelle Stewart, violins.

Tom Gerbino, oboe.

Joey Van Ullen, bassoon.

Mike Salamone, trumpet.

Katy Svatek, horn.

Rebekah Stilkey, trombone.

Announcements

Norm Tellier will be our preacher on April 7th. Pastor Mike & Sherri will be on vacation till April 6th. Communion for April will take place on April 14th. We have a communion class on April 14th, so we will have communion on that Sunday.

Join us during coffee hour for a conversation with Consistory members Tony Pechulis and Sue Lichtig on April 14. This is the first of a series of conversations to be scheduled. In the future, particular topics may be assigned, but this will be an open discussion. So, please grab a cup of coffee and bring your questions, comments and suggestions!

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 sign-up 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.

Our April Mission of the Month Collection will benefit **St. Joseph's Place**, a ministry of St. Joseph's Parish in Schenectady. They provide a place of hospitality, refreshment, prayer, and conversation for the Hamilton Hill neighborhood. The drop-in center was founded in 2014 and serves 20 - 30 neighbors daily who stop by to pray, visit, and enjoy a cup of coffee. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank 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!

Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

After David had constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. ² Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister before him forever."

³ David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it. ⁴ He called together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites:

⁵ From the descendants of Kohath,

Uriel the leader and 120 relatives;
⁶ from the descendants of Merari,
Asaiah the leader and 220 relatives;
⁷ from the descendants of Gershon,
Joel the leader and 130 relatives;
⁸ from the descendants of Elizaphan,
Shemaiah the leader and 200 relatives;
⁹ from the descendants of Hebron,
Eliel the leader and 80 relatives;
¹⁰ from the descendants of Uzziel,
Amminadab the leader and 112 relatives.

¹¹ Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab the Levites.

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.