

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

Christmas Eve

5:00pm Family Service

December 24, 2022

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Announcements

Tiffanie Wood

Welcome

Hope & Hailey Waxman

Prelude

Flute Solo

Ashley Pechulis

Call to Worship

Mia Bianchi

Rejoice in the light of life!

We rejoice that God loves us so much.

That God sent us a child

To teach us the nature of God's call for us,

To show us how God would have us be.

Rejoice in the light of life!

Sing praises, people of God!

We lift our voices in thanksgiving and praise!

*Carol

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful!

Congregation

O Come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O Come, Let us adore Him, O Come let us adore Him,

O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Salutation and Amen

Sophia Mazza

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Sophia Mazza

Lord, we are like sheep, and we get lost. We forget the needs of our neighbors and do not love you above all else. We need a savior, so we long for Jesus. Come, fill our lives, Jesus. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Elizabeth Maclutsky

God forgives all. You are forgiven and I am forgiven. Now we may live differently, centered on God's desire for a deep relationship with each and all of us. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Natalie Persons

Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. In Christ, we are forgiven! We are about to witness a recreation, a look back at a wonderful time in our history. Let's put ourselves back in that place among the animals, angels, people, and prophets, and the great miracle which was the birth of Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

Offering

What Child is This

Mia Bianchi

THE WORD OF GOD

The Play: "A Christmas Story"

ACT I: Bethlehem

Flute Solo

Jingle Bells

Natalie Persons

Clarinet Solo

"Up on the Rooftop!"

Lilya Edwards

Flute Solo *Away in the Manger* Sophia Myer-Veen

ACT II: Shepherds & Angels

Carol: *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"* Congregation

***Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on Earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.***

Piano Solo *"Go tell it on the Mountain!"* Evan Groudine

Piano/Flute Duet *"Joy to the World!"* Evan Groudine & Sophia Myer-Veen

*Carol *"Joy to the World!"* Congregation

***Joy to the world! The Lord has come
Let earth receive her King!
Let Every heart prepare him room;
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing
Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns.
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

Closing Caroline Drapeau, Addison Kreig, Sam Myer-Veen & Emily Wood

Program Participants

Greeters: Caroline Drapeau and Sam Myer-Veen

Welcome: Hope and Hailey Waxman

Call to Worship: Mia Bianchi

Salutation: Sophia Mazza

Prayer of Confession: Sophia Mazza

Words of Assurance: Elizabeth Maclutsky

Assurance of Pardon: Natalie Persons

Mary: Josie Mirel

Joseph: Benjamin Groudine

Lead Shepherd: Sam Mazza

Narrating Shepherds: Evan Groudine & Benjamin Wood

Sheep: Scarlett Mazza

Donkey: Brayden Bianchi

3 Wise Women: Emily Roth, Penelope Stafford, and Phoebe Stafford

Lead Star: Mason Roth

Little Stars: Nolan and Camilla Kennedy

Main Angel: Vivian Persons

Narrating Angels: Mia Bianchi, Lilja Edwards, Elizabeth Maclutsky, and Natalie Persons

Young Angel: Gabrielle Maclutsky

Closing Dialogue: Caroline Drapeau, Addison Kreig, Sam Myer-Veen, & Emily Wood

***Special appreciation to Nancy Tellier for piano accompaniment and to all the parents and Sunday School teachers who helped put this worship service together!*

Announcements

At the December 11, 2022, Congregational Meeting, Kathy Drapeau & Tom Henery were elected to the office of Deacon. Janel Mirel & Linda Gardner were elected to the office of Elder. Kathy & Tom will be ordained and Janel and Linda will be installed to these offices at the January 8th worship service.

There will be **NO** coffee hour on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The 2023 offering envelopes have arrived. You can pick them up in the narthex after service today.

Many of you have been asking if you can access the previous livestream recording of our services. There is an easy way to access these recordings. Please go to our website at: www.niskayunareformed.org and click the link that says, **Click HERE for PREVIOUS Services**. The link is also included here: [Niskayuna Reformed Church - YouTube](#). You can also access the current service that you can watch LIVE by clicking the link that says, **Click HERE for LIVE Service**. Hopefully, this is helpful to those you who have been having trouble accessing the recorded services.

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit America's VetDogs. The service dog programs of America's VetDogs were created to provide enhanced mobility and renewed independence to veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders with disabilities, allowing them to once again live with pride and self-reliance. America's VetDogs specializes placing highly skilled service and guide dogs to individuals with physical injuries, PTSD, hearing and vision loss, and seizures. Their mission is to help those who have served our country honorably live with dignity and independence. All services are provided at no cost — including transportation to and from their campus in Smithtown, NY. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. For SiCM, we will be collecting **personal care items**.

Do you have empty pill bottles that you don't know what to do with?? There is a collection box in the Education Building (next to the eyeglass box) for them. Your donations will be used to help underserved communities around the world. Please remove all labels prior to donating.

The Mission and Service Committee continues to collect **used eyeglasses** and **hearing aids** for the **Lions Club International** to distribute to those in need. The collection box is in the Education Building. Please check your homes for glasses or hearing aids no longer needed and bless someone else with the gift of sight or hearing.

Parents with infants and small children are reminded of the room behind the balcony with an audio system to hear the worship service if needed.