

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter
Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements

Prelude Sonata in A Minor Movement 2

Vivaldi

Introit

Votum

John Moak

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

Call to Worship Psalm 4 (Responsive):

Answer us when we call, O God of our right!

You gave us room when we were in distress.

Be gracious to us and hear our prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

**Know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for God's self,
the LORD hears us when we call.**

There are many who say,

“O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!”

You have put gladness in our hearts,
more than when their grain and wine abound.

We will both lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O LORD, make us lie down in safety.

In the joy of this Good News, let us be gathered to worship the LORD.

Come, let us worship the LORD!

*Hymn of Worship “Gather Us In”

Lift Up Your Hearts, 529

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

Call to Confession: (Responsive):

To all and to each of us
in his community and of his friends,
who come in confession willing to share,
our sins, struggles, and sorrows,
Jesus hears our prayers and pronounces his pardon,
and grants us the right to begin again.

Thanks be to God!

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired,
new love where we have turned hard-hearted,
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded,
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit
where we are prisoners of ourselves.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power,
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
and share that life with the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison: **Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance:

“The Spirit of God’s very self testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

*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 How Great Thou Art

Courtney

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading:

1 John 3:1-7

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

*Gospel Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

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

Sermon "Living As Easter People: Letting God Turn Us Around"

Pastor Sherri

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Lift Up Your Hearts, 730

The Response of God's People

The Offering

Offertory Sing Praises Unto His Holy Name

Bach

*The Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Meaning of the Sacrament

The Invitation

The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

For it is holy and right to do so!

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty adore your glorious name.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Most righteous God Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the bread and the cup

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 "I Am Thine, O LORD"

The Hymnbook, 320

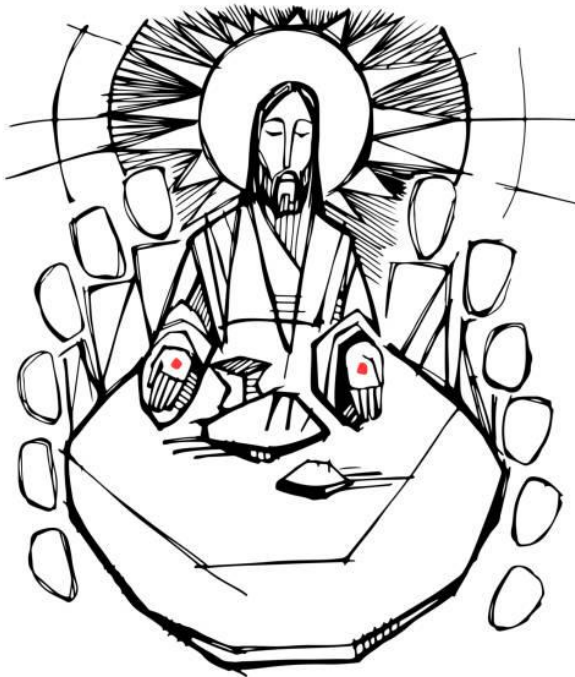
*The Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Postlude Sonata in F Minor Movement 5

Handel

(*Please stand if you are able.



Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession: The Worship Sourcebook. CRC Publications, 2004.

Cover Art from: <https://www.istockphoto.com/illustrations/communion-table>.

Announcements

This Sunday we celebrate communion as a congregation with the kids who took part in this year's communion class. Thanks be to God for the ways God's love and mercy are revealed in the bread and the cup we receive from Christ and share with one another around Christ's table. If you will be worshiping with us online, please prepare your own elements to share in communion with us from wherever you are this Sunday.

During coffee hour this week the consistory will be holding its first "Coffee Hour Conversation." There will be two representatives from the consistory, Sue Lichtig and Tony Pechulis, who will be available to talk with you if you have any celebrations, questions, or concerns you would like to share with our consistory. 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.

Church members Penelope & Phoebe Stafford, led by scout leaders Erin Bagdriwicz and Mandie Stafford will be selling cooking **today** and on April 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.

NRC has begun our 2024 service at the Salvation Army of Schenectady. Lunch dates have been scheduled for **May 14 and June 11**. This is a commitment from about 9:30am until 1:30pm. We will serve 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 John 3:1-7

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,^[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will

suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.