

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church**  
**May 12, 2024**  
**Seventh 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     Singing I Go  
                 William Kirkpatrick (1898)  
                 arr by 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):

We gather together to worship  
our loving, nurturing God,  
who, like a mother,  
knows us intimately,  
loves us unconditionally,  
teaches us the way we should go,  
and comforts us in times of need.

**Praise God,  
the Source and Sustainer of life!**

We've come to worship God,  
who loved us before we were yet born,  
who knows us even better than we know ourselves,  
whose presence never leaves us,  
and whose love for us never ceases.

**This is our God.**

**Come let us worship together!**

\*Hymn of Worship "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

**The Hymnbook, 213**

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

Call to Confession:

Some of us are tempted by resentment and unforgiveness  
because of those who have let us down.

some of us are tempted to condemn ourselves for past failings,  
and all of us remember times when we have fallen short.

In confession let us open our hearts to the One who hears our prayers,  
knows our hearts, and offers mercy to us all.

**Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**God of love and justice,  
we long for peace within and peace without.**

**We long for harmony in our relationships,  
for serenity in the midst of struggle.**

**We long for the day when our communities  
will be dwelling places for your love.**

**Yet we confess that we are often anxious,  
we do not trust each other,  
and we harbor violence.**

**We are not willing to take the risks  
and make the sacrifices that love requires.**

**Look upon us with kindness and grace.**

**Rule in our hearts and in all the world;  
show us how to walk in your paths,  
through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.**

Music for Reflection      La flûte de Pan, Op.15 Movement 1      Mouquet

Words of Assurance: Based on Isaiah 66:12-13

This is what the LORD says, "I will extend peace like a river, and the blessings like a flooding stream; you will be renewed and restored. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."

\*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 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms  
Anthony Showalter (1887)  
arr Larry Sue (ASCAP)

## **The Word of God**

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: 1 John 5:9-13

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

\*Gospel Reading John 17:6-19

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

Sermon "A Prayer to Pursue"

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship "Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide"  
**The Hymnbook, 124**

## **The Response of God's People**

The Offering

Offertory His Eye is on the Sparrow  
Charles H. Gabriel  
arr Larry Sue (ASCAP)

\*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 Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

**The Hymnbook, 400**

\*The Benediction

The Postlude La flûte de Pan, Op.15 Movement 2

Mouquet

(\*) Please stand if you are able.

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



## Announcements

We welcome the Bell Choir today. They are being led by Jim Friderici, the Bell Choir director, and assisted by Amy Frost. We thank Amy for filling in as director while Jim is recuperating.

For our special music we will have Sheven Wu. Sheven is an 11th grader that attends Shenendehowa High School. She dedicates her free time meeting with friends, crocheting, serving in UNICEF club and student government, and practicing the flute. Currently, she is in the ESYO Wind Orchestra as a 3rd chair 1st flute. She's also preparing for the May 17-18 NYSSMA Festival with *La Flûte de Pan* by Jules Mouquet.

You are invited to join us for a special 6-week spring Bible Study on the Epistle of 1 John. Bible study groups meet on Monday Evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom and run through June 3rd, and in-person in the lounge on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am and run through June 5th. All you need to bring is a favorite Bible if you have one and an open heart to share, listen, and learn from one another and the Holy Spirit! If we do not have your email address and you would like to join the Zoom small group, please be sure to give it to Pastor Mike or Pastor Sherri so we can send you the link.

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit **Camp Fowler** a Christian Camp and Retreat Center that is a non-profit children's camp grounded in openness, hospitality, and compassionate Christianity. Camp Fowler's function first and foremost is as a summer camp, aiming to provide space for children to be themselves, learn from those who are different from them, and intimately experience wonder and love. In the off-season, they offer retreats that revolve around themes of stewardship, relationships, youth ministry and spirituality—most of which are open to the public. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

For the SICM collection this month, in honor of Mother's Day, we will be collecting Women's Personal Care Products—hair care items, body wash, deodorant, lotion, perfume, nail polish, lipstick, make-up, etc.

Longtime preschool teacher, Kathy Mausert is retiring after 19 years at Niskayuna Reformed Church. We will be celebrating her retirement on May 19<sup>th</sup> during the service and coffee hour immediately following

service. We hope you can join in the celebration. We will be collecting donations to present to Kathy on May 19th. You can drop off **CASH** or check made out to **CASH** in the collection plate and mark it: Kathy's gift or drop donations off to Ellen on Tuesday or Thursday from 9-3. **Donations are due the morning of May 16th.** (Please do not make checks out to NRC.) We also think Kathy would appreciate cards, especially if you can't attend the coffee hour. Those also can put in the collection box or given to Ellen or Pastor Mike. Thanks for joining us in celebrating Kathy's amazing commitment and devotion to NRC's preschool program all these years!

The Stewardship Committee is trying to keep church members in the loop about our finances. The finances from the previous month will now be posted every month and compared to last year to give you a gage of where we stand. Keep in mind there are many factors, and it might not always be as straightforward as it looks but we wanted to be as transparent as possible, For the month of April our offerings for 2023 were \$16,602 and \$17,072 for 2024.

## Scripture

### 1 John 5:9-13

We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. <sup>10</sup> Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

### John 17:6-19

"I have revealed you<sup>[a]</sup> to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave

them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of<sup>[b]</sup> your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by<sup>[c]</sup> that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup> "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by<sup>[d]</sup> the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.