

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church**  
**May 5, 2024**  
**Sixth 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     What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Converse

Introit

Votum

Lynne Barnard-Avveduti

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

**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

We, who so often take the wonders of creation for granted,  
welcome the opportunity to make a joyful noise before you, O God.

**We come to worship and praise you this morning,  
grateful to live in this world filled,  
with so many beautiful and diverse examples of your creation.**

Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone.

Each of us comes here with different experiences and life circumstances.  
Some are burdened by physical pain, loss, and the stresses of daily living.  
Some are weary of caring for others.

Some are worried about the state of the world and where it is all leading.

**Meet us, O God, in the sacredness of this time,  
and remind us of Jesus' invitation to abide in God's love,  
and renew our calling to love one another.**

Trusting in your greater love that laid down his life for us,  
we offer this time of worship to you, O God.

**May it reflect our praise and thanksgiving for the gifts of creation,  
and for all that Jesus has done for us.**

\*Hymn of Worship "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**The Hymnbook, 399**

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

Call to Confession:

God's Word assures us:

"If we say that we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins,  
he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1Jn 1:8-9)  
In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**Awesome and compassionate God,  
you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,  
but we have not loved you.  
You constantly call us, but we do not listen.  
You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns.  
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.  
God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,  
we repent in spirit and in truth,  
admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness,  
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,  
in whose love we abide. Amen.**

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

Moment of Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance: 1 John 1:6-7

"If we claim to have fellowship with God and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from all sin."

\*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 No Greater Gift

Shram

### **The Word of God**

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading:

Acts 10:44-48

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

\*Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

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

Sermon “Abiding in love to love one another”

Pastor Mike

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

**The Hymnbook, 404**

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

The Offering

Offertory Shall We Gather at the River

Carter

\*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 “In Christ There is No East or West”  
**The Hymnbook, 479**

\*The Benediction

Benediction Response

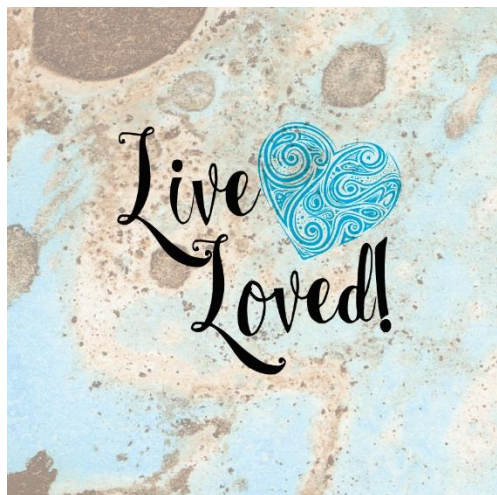
\*The Postlude Variations on "O Worship the King" Haydn/Ritter

(\*) Please stand if you are able.

Cover art by: Beth Erickson

Call to Worship: Adapted from a prayer by Moira Laidlaw.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession: [The Worship Sourcebook](#).  
CRC Publications, 2004



## **Announcements**

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!

Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to a Cinco De Mayo Youth Gathering today from 4pm to 6pm in the fellowship hall. There will be games, tacos, and a conversation together. Hope to see you there!

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](tel:(518)421-1734). Thank you!

## Scripture

### Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues<sup>[a]</sup> and praising God.

Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” <sup>48</sup> So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

### John 15:9-17

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.