

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church  
June 23, 2024  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen**

**The Approach to God**

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

Welcome and announcements

Prelude      Vite from Neuf Impromptus

P.M. duBois

Votum

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

Call to Worship: Psalm 33

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous,  
**it is fitting for the faithful to praise God.**

Praise the LORD with the harp,  
make music to God on the ten-stringed lyre.

**Sing to the LORD a new song,  
play skillfully, and shout for joy.**

For the word of the LORD is right and true,  
God is faithful in all God does.

**The LORD loves righteousness and justice,  
the earth is full of God’s unfailing love.**

No king is saved by the size of his army,  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.

A horse is a vain hope for deliverance,  
despite all its great strength it cannot save.

**But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear God,  
on those whose hope is in God’s unfailing love.**

We wait in hope for the LORD,  
God is our help and our shield.

**May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,  
even as we put our hope in you.**

\*Hymn of Worship

*"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"*

**Lift Up Your Hearts, 601**

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

Call to Confession:

Paul encourages us to not accept the grace of God in vain, for God says, "At an acceptable time, I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation, I have helped you. See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!" Therefore, let us open our hearts and confess our sins, struggles, and sorrows together.

Prayer of Confession:

**Gracious God, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity and greatness.**

**Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives.**

**Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power and squandering your good gifts.**

**We confess that our blindness to your glory, O triune God, has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and only mild repentance.**

**Have mercy upon us.**

**In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison:

**Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Moment of Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance: Isaiah 43:1-3

But now, this is what the LORD says— "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,

I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.  
For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

\*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***

Special Music      Adagio      H. Baermann

### **The Word of God**

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading:      1 Samuel 17:32-49  
This is the Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

\*Gospel Reading      Mark 4:35-41  
This is the Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon      “*Finding faith for boats and battlefields*”      Pastor Mike

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship      “*How Firm a Foundation*”  
**Lift Up Your Hearts, 427**

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

The Offering

Offertory      Andante con moto      H. Bading

\*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      *"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

**The Hymnbook, 358**

\*The Benediction

The Postlude

Allegro from Petit Concert

D. Milhaud

(\*) Please stand if you are able.

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

### **Service Participants:**

Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen - Pastors

Suzi O'Brien- Liturgist

Joey Van Ullen - Guest Musician

Rebecca Benjamin - Organist/Pianist



## **Announcements**

Our guest musician today is Joey Van Ullen. Joey is the Assistant Registrar for Scheduling at SUNY Empire, and recently has played Secret Garden and Peter Pan with Homemade Theater, as well as Beauty and the Beast, The Wizard of Oz, and Something Rotten with local high schools. Later this summer he will be performing in the pit for Legally Blonde at Cohoes Music Hall with Playhouse Stage.

We are still looking for some more volunteers for some of the events of our summer of service week and would like to open it up now to any adults who would like to join during the week. We are looking for more volunteers to join us at the Vale Urban Farm on Monday July 1 from 9:00am to 11:00am. The City Mission Donation Center July 2nd from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The City Mission Dinner Service July 3rd from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are able to come and serve with us!

The Mission of the Month collection will benefit local teachers who spend their own money to make their classrooms a welcoming environment and ensure all students have all the supplies they need for the upcoming school year. Mission and Service along with the Women's Fellowship Group will work together over the summer to fulfill as many requests as possible. Watch for more information as to how you can help those within the NRC Congregation and the local community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Our June collection for Sycamore Collaborative (formerly SiCM) will be men's personal products including deodorant, shaving cream, razors etc. Food items, all personal care items are always welcome. Thank you, NRC family, for your continued support of this organization. As a deliverer of collected items, I see the joy and hear the thanks of the dedicated staff who welcome the donations. You make a difference!

NRC will be helping serve lunches to Schenectady children the week of July 15-18 at Central Park from 11:40-1:30. We will need 3 or 4 helpers each day. If interested, please text Michele Kopp at (518) 424-3825 for more information.

Please mark your calendars!! Our Annual Flea Market is scheduled for **Saturday, September 21st**. We need LOTS of volunteers to make this

event successful. Volunteer requests will go out in late August but if you know you can help on either Thursday (September 19th) or Friday (September 20th) evening to help with prep work or you would like to be a kitchen volunteer, parking attendant or runner you can email Ellen at [office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org). This is a great team building event and a great way to meet other church members, especially if you are new to NRC. We hope to make this the MOST successful Flea Market ever!! Join in the fun!

## Scripture

### **1 Samuel 17:32-49**

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

<sup>33</sup> Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

<sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup> The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

<sup>38</sup> Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. <sup>39</sup> David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. <sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

<sup>41</sup> Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. <sup>42</sup> He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. <sup>43</sup> He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

<sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

<sup>48</sup> As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. <sup>49</sup> Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

### **Mark 4:35-41**

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

<sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”