

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church  
July 14, 2024  
Eighth 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 Finlandia

Sibelius

Votum

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

Call to Worship: Micah 6:6-8 (Responsive)

With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?

**Shall I come before the LORD with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?**

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

**God has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?**

\*Hymn of Worship “We Are God’s People”

**insert**

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

Call to Confession:

We cannot come before God

unless we are first honest with ourselves  
about who we are,  
about the mistakes we make,  
and about how well or poorly we care for others.  
In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

**Prayer of Confession: (Unison):**

**Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes  
and our happiness than to your will.**

**We have eaten without a thought for the hungry.**

**We have spoken without an effort to understand others.**

**We have kept silence instead of telling the truth.**

**We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge.**

**We have acted rather in accordance with our opinions  
than according to your commands.**

**Within your church we have been slow to practice love of our  
neighbors.**

**And in the world we have not been your faithful servants.**

**Forgive us and help us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ,  
your Son, our Savior. 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: Colossians 1:10,13-14

“Lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to God, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. The LORD has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God’s beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

\*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      It's Been a Long Long Time      Cahn, Styne

### **The Word of God**

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

\*Gospel Reading      Luke 10:25-37  
This is the Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon      "Are you a neighbor?"      Pastors Mike & Sherri

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship      "Pass It On"      **insert**

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

The Offering

Offertory      Barcarolle      Shuebruk

\*The Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

**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!**

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      "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"      **insert**

\*The Benediction

The Postlude      Heaven Came Down      Peterson

(\*) Please stand if you are able.

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

Cover art: Portrait of You as the Good Samaritan. By James B Janknegt.

**Service Participants:**

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

Lynne Barnard-Avveduti- Liturgist

Deborah Kraft - Guest Musician

Rebecca Benjamin - Organist/Pianist



**Announcements**

Our guest musician today is Deborah Kraft, sister of Rebecca Benjamin. Deborah is a bike mechanic in Burlington, VT and loves adventuring on two wheels. She currently plays trombone in a group called Brass Balagan - a chaotic street band that demands the elimination of all evil - and has played on a handful of recorded albums with other local musicians in Burlington. She is excited to be playing with two family members today - her father and great uncle!

As part of the Stewardship Committee efforts to keep church members in the loop about our finances, this is included every month. The finances from the previous month are posted every month and compared to last year to give you a gage of where we stand. For the month of June our offerings for 2023 were \$13,918 and \$24,377 for 2024.

Our Mission of the Month Collection for July will benefit **Home of Joy** which is a small orphanage in Chiang Mai Thailand founded by former Colonie resident Kathleen DeMaso in 2002 to provide for orphaned children from birth to age two. Home of Joy is part of Youth With A Mission whose purposes is to “know God and make Him known”.

NRC’s July and August collection will be school supplies for students attending Schenectady City School District. The City Mission will be distributing these supplies to the schools to assist with a successful start to the school year. Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors.

Ellen is on vacation till July 19. There will be someone answering the phone on July 16 & 18. If you have an emergency while she is gone, please contact Rick Wallace.

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.

NRC is continuing our 2024 service at the Salvation Army of Schenectady throughout the summer. Lunch dates have been scheduled for **Thursday, July 18, Tuesday August 27 and Thursday September 26.** This is a commitment from about 9:30am until 1:30pm. We will serve once monthly from now 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 for any of the dates above, please call or text Sue Lichtig at (518)421-1734. Thank you!

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

### **Luke 10:25-37**

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”