

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church**  
**August 18, 2024**  
**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Rev. Norman J. Tellier, D.Min.**

*Preparation for Worship: A Christian man is the most free Lord of all and subject to none; a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.*

*-Martin Luther*

**The Approach to God**

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude:     *My Lord, What a Morning*             *Spiritual, arr. Emma Lou Diemer*

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

The Call to Worship:

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."

People: **Whoever comes to him will never be hungry, whoever believes in him will never be thirsty.**

Leader: O, Lord, open wide our lips;

People: **And our mouths shall sing your praise!**

\*A Hymn:                     "Come, Ye Faithful"                     The Hymnbook, 205

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

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**Forgive us, O God of all the earth, that we content ourselves with words and do little to flesh out those words with deeds. We call Christ "Lord," but do not let his rule live in us. We call him "Light," but abide in the shadows. We say he is the "Way," but do not follow him. Do not hold our**

**doubts against us and be patient with our desires for signs of your power. Have mercy upon us, O God; forgive us who confess our sin; restore us who turn again to you, as was promised by your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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

Words of Assurance

A Call to New Life

A Psalm:

Psalm 111

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.**

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

**He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.**

He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

**The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.**

\*The 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

Lord of the Dance

Emma Lou Diemer

**The Word of God**

The Prayer for Illumination: **We come, O God, expecting to hear you speak. Make us receptive, so that even when we don't hear what we expect or want to hear, we know that it is from you. Open our minds and our hearts, so we may be challenged by your Word. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:15-20  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 15:21-28  
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: "Live Carefully"

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

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

\*A Hymn: "All Things are Thine" The Hymnbook, 313

The Offering

Offertory: Aria Emma Lou Diemer

The Doxology (#544) and Prayer of Consecration

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

\*A Hymn: "Christ for the World We Sing" The Hymnbook, 489

\*The Benediction

\*The Postlude: Lift Up the Gates Eternal (Psalm 24)  
Israeli, arr. Emma Lou Diemer

\*Please stand if you are able.

Note: The Prelude, Offertory, Special Music and Postlude were composed by Emma Lou Diemer, an important American composer who died recently at age 96.

## **Announcements**

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

Our Mission of the Month Collection for August will benefit **C.R.E.A.T.E Community Studios**, a local organization dedicated to providing a space where the benefits of art-making impact both the individual and the community as a whole. They offer low-cost art workshops and groups, community wellness activities, and open studios to promote art-making and the creative process as a vehicle for personal growth, communication, and social change.

NRC's August collection is 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.

Our Annual Flea Market is scheduled for **Saturday, September 21st**. We need LOTS of volunteers to make this event successful. Volunteer sheets are in the back of the church and then will be moved to Fellowship Hall. We also need many chefs/bakers!! You can also email Ellen at [office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org) and let her know your availability. 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**

### ***Ephesians 5:15-20***

Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but

understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

### **Matthew 15:21-28**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.