

# NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 10, 2021

JOHN MOAK – PREACHING ELDER

As we gather together for worship, may you be reminded that you are loved and cared for by God, and called to spread that love to the world. May God quiet your heart so that you may hear his voice and sense the power of his almighty presence.

If you are a visitor to our worship service in person at the church today, we welcome you. Please help us by introducing yourself to a greeter at the entrance to the sanctuary. You will receive a visitor's gift with information about our church.

**Note: Congregational responses are printed in bold, italic typeface.**

## THE APPROACH TO GOD

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

### Announcements

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Held

### Votum

Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world, your Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we have become heirs to your kingdom, members of the same body, and witnesses to your promise. And thus, we say, "Our help is the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth." **Amen.**

### Call to Worship (Gen 1: 1-2; Mark 1: 1-11)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters; then God said: Let there be light, and God saw that it was good. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was baptized by John. The heavens opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove; then God said: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Hymn

This is My Father's World

**101**

### God's Greeting to Us

To all God's people here who are called to be saints, grace, mercy, and peace to you and from the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### Call to Confession

A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent, be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord. We return to the water to confess our sins, giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ, the one who has come to save us.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are – not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your ways. Forgive us, gracious God. IN Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news of the gospel: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

Our Call and Our Duty

God of heaven and earth, we gather in the name of Jesus to hear your Holy Word and to be immersed in your Spirit. Speak to us with grace and truth and pour out your love upon us so that this temple may resound with joyful shouts of glory; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Special Music

## THE WORD OF GOD

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

**Send down your Holy Spirit, O God – tear open the veil of heaven and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

New Testament Lesson

Acts 19: 1-7

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

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1: 4-11

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

Sermon

John Moak – Preaching Elder

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Hymn

God, That Madest Earth and Heaven

58

Prayer of Consecration, Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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.**

Benediction

Go forth in the light and love of God, giving glory to God in all that you do. And remember, my friends, that in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, all the blessings of heaven are yours. Alleluia.

Postlude

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her (From Heaven Above to Earth I Come) - Pachelbel

### **Acts 19:1-7**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied -- altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

### **Mark 1:4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

### **Announcements**

- The 2021 Envelopes are IN! Please look for your envelopes in the Education Building after 1:30 on Monday-Friday. If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, please contact Ellen at [office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org).
- "CAN" YOU HELP? SiCM's newest campaign for collecting all types of canned food to replenish their Food Pantry. NRC will have two blue bins in Education Building for this purpose. You can drop of your canned goods Monday-Friday, **after 1:30 pm**. This drive will run till March 31, 2020.
- Since Pastor Jason is not preaching this weekend, the commissioning of the new deacons and elders for the 2021 Consistory will take place at a later date.
- The WFG will be meeting on Zoom on **Wednesday, January 13th**, at 2:00 pm. The WBG will meet on **Saturday, January 16th** at 10 am, via zoom. Please contact Trudy Lehner with questions and login information for **BOTH** groups at 518-346-8952 or [tlehner@aol.com](mailto:tlehner@aol.com). All are welcome to join!

