

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

REV. RETT ZABRISKIE

Preparation for Worship

Sinners see the devout pray and fast, bear insults patiently, help the sick and poor, restrain their tempers, practice self denial, and do many other things difficult in themselves. But they can not see the inward, heartfelt devotion which makes such acts pleasurable and easy, no more than they can believe that the martyrs considered fire, the sword, and tortures to be heavenly gifts. Francis de Sales.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

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

Announcements

Prelude

When I survey the Wondrous Cross
Lowell Mason/Marilynn Ham

Votum

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth!

Call to Worship

L: A great windstorm arose and the waves beat into the boat.

P: BUT JESUS WAS IN THE STERN ASLEEP.

L: They woke him and said, "Master, do you not care that we are perishing?"

P: HE REBUKED THE WIND AND SAID, "PEACE, BE STILL".

L: Jesus said, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?"

P: AND THEY SAID, "WHO THEN IS THIS, THAT EVEN THE WIND AND SEA OBEY HIM?"

Hymn

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#84

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Father in Heaven, we confess our dislike of hard and confusing thought. We would rather you took care of everything so that we did not have to work to understand. We like to do "what we do best", namely enjoy ourselves, and leave difficult tasks to others. Have mercy upon us O God. Teach us by the model of Jesus that life is found in faithfulness and obedience. Help us to see the depth of our fall from you and the grace of Christ restoring that relation. Forgive our sin. In Jesus Name. AMEN

Words of Assurance:

Call to New Life:

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Let us live together in peace,

Comforted, upheld, and strengthened by the presence of Christ in our midst. **AMEN**

Special Music Guest Vocalist Deana Perlee

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

Holy Spirit, pour out upon us wisdom and understanding, that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to receive all that leads to life and holiness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Junior Sermon

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 7:1-3, 8:1-6

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon "The Scientist Explains"

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Hymn "From Thee All Skill and Science Flow" #315

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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.

Benediction

Postlude The Old Rugged Cross
Robert J. Hughes/George Bennard

Announcements

Reverend Rett Zabriskie will be our guest preacher for the next 4 weeks. He is a graduate of Earlham College and New Brunswick Seminary. The schools mirror his family history as his mother is a New England Wheelock and his father a Jersey Dutch Zabriskie.

He was married to Astrid from Boddum in Denmark from 1973 until her death in 2007.

There are children and grandchildren in Denmark, Arizona, and Baltimore. Rev. Zabriskie has served the larger Church as staff for Metro New York Project Equality and the American Bible Society. He has served the Reformed Church in America over the years as pastor, denominational executive, and Classis Stated Clerk. He has been the Interim Minister in 28 congregations. As the word "retirement" does not appear in scripture, he hasn't.

"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.**

We love appreciating the musical talents of our congregation and zoom allows us to enjoy the gifts that others have to offer! If you are interested in recording and sharing a musical contribution, please contact Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org and we will get you scheduled for one of our services! You can share music by recording a video of your piece, or you could perform live if you want (but please set up a sound check with us in advance to make sure this goes smoothly)! If you would like piano accompaniment, Rebecca is happy to make a recording and send you a track to use, as long as you send her sheet music.

Due to COVID 19, we will not be ordering memorial azaleas and lilies for Easter this year. We will **still** be doing an Easter Memorial bulletin. We will be working off last year's bulletin. If you have **NO** changes to your memorial from last year and you want it to remain the same, there is no need to contact the office. If there are any changes or you would like to add a memorial, please contact Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org or 518-785-5575 by **March 26th**.

On Palm Sunday, March 28,th at 10:30am, the Membership Committee will be doing a drive by "Passing of the Palms". Since we can't have full capacity in the sanctuary, we thought it would be nice for you to drive up and receive your palms and a treat bag. We wish we could do a regular coffee hour so we could let you all know that the church community cares about each and every one of you and this is one way we can show it. Please come by and enjoy this new and wonderful event. More details will follow so please read your weekly newsletter and bulletins. Stay safe and well, blessings.

Directions to access the Members' Directory on the NRC Website:

Step 1 – www.niskayunareformed.org

Step 2 – Once in the website, scroll all the way to the bottom. In the gray area, look at *Quick Links* (second column). The last thing on the bottom of the list is **Members area**. Click on that.

Step 3 – It will ask you to login. You should use your username or email and Password. If you don't have your password, hit "lost password" and it will instruct you to get a new one.

Step 4 – Now that you are signed in, it will say *Members*. In red, you will find *Members directory*; click on that.

Step 4A. If nothing opens, right click on the Member Area icon and choose the first option – Open Link in a New Tab

Step 5 – Either a box will come up that says *password*, OR you might get a PDF icon that shows up at the bottom left of the screen which is labeled *73946564 church...pdf*. Click on that, then it will ask for the password

Enter *Password* – **DO NOT USE YOUR PERSONAL PASSWORD** – Everyone needs to type the following in either the box or the pdf: ***password***

Once you type the word ***password***, hit Submit and the directory will come up.

The directory is for members only which is why it is secured.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office and someone will get back to you.