

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 25, 2021

REV. JONATHAN VANDERBECK

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude Fill My Cup Lord Blanchard

Votum

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

Call to Worship

One: Like sheep hearing the voice of the shepherd, we hear your call to us into worship,
O God.

ALL: We hear your voice and we come!

One: Even when we turn astray, you come after us as the Good Shepherd.

ALL: Let us give thanks and praise for your mercy, O God.

One: Hear our cries of praise and worship; may you find them pleasing O Lord

ALL: Lead us into praise. Alleluia!

*Hymn My Hope is Built on Nothing Less 368

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Gracious Shepherd: we come to you confessing that like sheep, we often wander off alone. No matter how often we are reminded, we continue to think that we can do it our own way. Thank you for your patience and grace in continually coming after us. Forgive us, God, when we continue to stumble. In the name of Christ we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Call to New Life

And in response to God's covenant love for us, we respond to God's continual call on our lives as echoed in the words of the prophet Micah who asks: What does the Lord require of us?

To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Anthem Kyrie Dvorak/Schram

THE WORD OF GOD

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

O God, may your Spirit be our teacher, your Word be our guide, and the Glory of Christ be our highest concern. Amen!

First Reading: Psalm 23

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

Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

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

Sermon

"Tales from the Pasture"

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Hymn Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 380

Prayers 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

Go out into the world in peace. Give no person evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; honor all people.

May the blessings of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you now and always.

Postlude

Sing to the Lord on High

Livingston

*Please remain seated

Announcements

- **All Sunday School Parents--Please pick up your students at the playground!**
- The stream team is looking for a few more people to help bring God 's word and His peace from our sanctuary to those who cannot physically be here. No experience required. Please contact Leo Lichtig or Suzi O'Brien for more information.
- On behalf of the Mission and Service Committee, I would like to thank all the volunteers that extended their helping hands for the Brook's BBQ on April 21st. We had 20 people inside and out, and everything ran smoothly. We could not have had the success we did without you. I would also like to thank the congregation for their support the day of the BBQ. Through yours and the community's generosity we were able to sell 105 halves and 695 dinners. We made a profit of \$3373.25. We know that we could have sold more, but because of the inclement weather we decided to just sell the original 800 we had committed to. I will be looking for volunteers for our next "Brooks" BBQ **August 18, 2021**, and hope that you will join in the fun. ~Kim Cerone, BBQ Chairperson