

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

Easter Sunday

APRIL 4, 2021

REV. RETT ZABRISKIE

Preparation for Worship

In worship we engage as the Body of Christ in an encounter with almighty God. This engagement should never be a rambling incoherence of well-meaning phrases and gestures. It should exhibit that deliberate and historical patterning of sentiment and expression which befits the meeting of the sons and daughters of earth with the King of Kings. Further, in public worship . . . it is important that the whole congregation sense a purpose and direction in their representation before God. They should never be placed in the position of being spectators at a performance that is entirely dependent upon the esthetic, emotional, and spiritual whims of its leaders. This in no way precludes the inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit. The enemy of the Spirit is not form but anarchy. John Bell

THE APPROACH TO GOD

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Announcements

Prelude

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Alfred V. Fedak

Votum

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

Call to Worship

L: Christ is Risen!

P: INDEED HE IS RISEN!

L: Christ is Risen!

P: INDEED HE IS RISEN!

L: Christ is Risen!

P: HE IS RISEN INDEED! AMEN AND AMEN!

Hymn

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

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Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Father in Heaven we confess to you that we have often been blind to your gift of life. We have heard the bad news of our folly and missed the good news of your life. Have mercy upon us O Lord. We have all wished for heaven but we want to get there without dying. We have wanted magic in place of the real goodness that is resurrection. Forgive our sin and teach us the truth of the Christ. 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

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Arr. Martin

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: Isaiah 42:1-12

Junior Sermon

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, 12-28

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon

“Living Means Punctuation”

THE RESPONSE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

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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

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Healey Willan

Guest musicians: Michelle Stewart, violin. Portia Zwicker, viola. Dan Hoke, double bass
Guest organist: Margaret Randall

Announcements

All Sunday School Parents--Please pick up your students at the playground!

Plans are underway for this year's Women's Retreat about ***Living in God's Garden*** on **Saturday, April 24 at 10:00 am**. Due to the lingering pandemic, this year's program will again be held on Zoom rather than in person. It will include some wonderful topics (Container Gardening, Butterfly Gardening, Flower Arranging, Virtual Tour of Gardens Around the World, Capital Roots ...) given by speakers with expert knowledge of their subjects. Registration is now open. There is no cost, but we ask that you pre-register no later than April 21 by contacting Sharon Jackson at sej832@aol.com or by phone at 518-783-9137. Watch for more details as they become available!

Our first Brooks BBQ of the 2021 season will be April 21st, 3 PM – 6 PM. We need volunteers to help us the day of the BBQ. There will be a need for inside help: assembling the chicken dinners, bagging dinners, and transporting dinners to the pickup tables. Outside help: ticket sales, traffic direction, and runners to take assembled dinners to the cars. We will also need someone to keep track of the number of dinners sold. We still plan to properly distance our workers, which still means that there will still be quite a bit of moving around to assemble the dinners. All volunteers will still need to wear masks and gloves. For at least this first BBQ we will use the prepackaged cookies that Brooks will supply. If you can volunteer April 21st, please contact Kim Cerone @ 518-339-7504 or purdyka@aol.com. If you are unable to volunteer, the best way you can help us is to swing in and purchase a great meal.

Dinners (half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll/butter, and cookie): \$12.00

Half Chicken only: \$8.00