

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 16, 2021

REV. JONATHAN VANDERBECK

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude For the Beauty of the Earth -- DIX Conrad Kocher, Arr. Patricia Cota
The Eendracht Bell Choir

Votum

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

Call to Worship

One: On this Sunday of Ascending, we are reminded of OUR sending into the world.

ALL: Christ give us hope.

One: We come to lift your name in praise and hope, and bring this message to all.

ALL: Christ receive our praise.

One: Know our fears and anxieties. Know our hopes and joys. Meet us and fill us with your spirit.

ALL: Christ send us out.

One: Let us come and worship. Alleluia!

Hymn All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name 132

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.

Special Music

How can I keep from Singing?
Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Ed Cash Arr. Patricia Cota
The Eendracht Bell Choir

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 47

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

Gospel Reading: Acts 1:1-11

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

Sermon

Ascending and a "sending."

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns 213

Psalm 47

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- ² For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
- ³ He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
- ⁴ He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- ⁷ For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.^[a]
- ⁸ God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
- ⁹ The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.

Acts 1:1-11

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying^[a] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."