

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
May 23, 2021
Day of Pentecost
Rev. Abby Norton-Levering, Albany Synod Ministries Coordinator

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude: Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist
 (We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit) Buxtehude

Votum and Opening Prayer (*Genesis 1:1-4*):

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good;

and God separated the light from the darkness.

Creator God: send your Spirit to move today through the chaos of our lives,
breathing calm, order and clear boundaries. In the name of your son Jesus
Christ, bringer of new life, we pray, AMEN

The Call to Worship (*adapted from Psalm 104*):

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

All your creatures, including us, look to you
to give us food in due season.

When you hide your face, we are dismayed.

When you take away our breath, we die and return to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, we are re-created
and the entire creation is renewed.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever!

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made us all;

the earth is full of your creatures! AMEN

The Salutation and People's Amen: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord of Heaven and Earth,

**Forgive us. We are often distracted and listless,
and we fail to listen for your Spirit's leading in our lives.**

**We forget the promises we made
to love our neighbors as ourselves,
to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly, following you.
Even now we struggle to be still and pray.
Help us, O God.**

Time of silent reflection.

Nevertheless, Merciful God,

you do not give up on us.

Your patience, mercy and loving kindness do not fail.

Empower us as we renew our promises to you,

That we may ourselves be renewed by your Spirit,

walk in your grace and faithfully live for you all our days. AMEN

Words of Assurance and Call to New Life:

Friends in Christ, hear these words from the baptismal liturgy:

whatever our journey to this point, we remember that in baptism

God claims us and seals us to show that we belong to Jesus Christ!

God forgives us and frees us from sin and death;

God unites us to Jesus in his death and resurrection;

makes us members of the church, the body of Christ; and

empowers each one of us by the Spirit

to join Christ's mission in the world.

Let us heed God's call on our life,

and live together in peace. AMEN

Order for Profession of Faith and Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism of Benjamin Timothy Butler

New Members Lindsay & Timothy Butler

Anthem: A Song Unending Dengler

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination: Holy God, Send your Spirit upon us, that the Word we hear may come alive in us, and revive us again. AMEN

Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

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

New Testament Lesson: Acts 2:1-12

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

Sermon: Can These Bones Live?

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

Hymn: Holy Spirit, Truth Divine 240

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer: **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.**

The Benediction

Announcements

- Sunday School Parents--pick up your students at the playground!
- Today, we celebrate the baptism of Benjamin Butler, son of new members Lindsay & Timothy Butler. May the Lord bless and guide him in his faith. May he know the love and support of our church community.
- You may notice a nice smell in the sanctuary today! The cushions and carpets were professionally cleaned this week. We hope you enjoy and appreciate our continued sanitation efforts to keep everyone safe and happy!
- At 11 am today, we will have a small group session. Please consider attending as the data that is collected by the facilitators will be essential for the church to know how to move forward. If you can't make it today, there will be a ZOOM session tomorrow, Monday, May 24th at 5:30. Please email Ellen at office@[niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org) if you want to join the ZOOM session.

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath^[a] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath^[b] in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I

looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[d] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Acts 2:1-12

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”