

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church

May 30, 2021

TRINITY SUNDAY

John Moak – Preaching Elder

The Approach to God

Welcome and Announcements

The Lord be with you

And also, with you

Prelude Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us - Paxton/Bradbury

Votum -

Holy Trinity, one God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Renew our desire to glorify you in thought, word, and deed as we worship you this day. Awaken in us your three-fold presence in the world, that we may share your love with others as freely as you have done for us in Christ's holy name.

Amen.

The Call to Worship –

Leader: Blessed be God, Eternal Majesty, Living Word, Abiding Spirit.

People: Glory to God forever. Amen.

Leader: Jesus said, the way to see God's dream for the world is to be born from above by the Spirit. The way to take part in that dream, says Jesus, is to be born of water and Spirit. That gift is available this day. May you receive God's Spirit, be made whole, and dwell more deeply in love divine. **Amen.**

*Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty #11

*The Salutation and the People's Amen -

To all God's people here who are called to be saints, grace, mercy, and peace to you and from the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Call to Confession –

Let us confess our sins to the One who gives life eternally.

Prayer of Confession -

Holy God, we know that you are always there to lead us, yet we somehow lose our way and fall back in fear. We confess that we have stumbled, and we recognize our need for you to lift us up and help us start again. Forgive us our failings, restore us to strength, and reconcile us with you, ourselves, and each other, through the power of Christ and the gift of your Spirit. Amen. (pause in silent reflection)

Words of Assurance -

Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the good news: We did not receive the spirit of slavery, but rather the spirit of adoption. Your guilt has departed; your sin is blotted out, for you are God's beloved children – forgiven, loved, and free. May God's peace be with you.

Prayer of the Day -

Holy God, source of all goodness, you gave your Son for the life of the world and sent your Spirit that your love might abide within us. Teach us how to love each other this day, that we may have life and have it abundantly, with you, in Christ, and through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Anthem Lord, I Want to Be a Christian. Arr. Hogan

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word, that we would hear what you have to say to us today. May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 29

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Gospel Lesson John 3:1-17
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon AWESOME!

The Response of God's People

*Hymn All Creatures of our God and King #100

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 –

God said, “Whom shall I send, and who shall go for us?” and Isaiah said, “Here am I; send me!” Life-giving God, free us from our fear, fill us with your love, and surround us with your grace. May the Lord give strength to you. May the Lord bless you with peace. And may the blessing of God, who creates, redeems, and restores, be with you now and always.

*The Postlude Toccata in E Minor - Pachelbel

Scripture Readings

Psalm 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,^[a]
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.
- ³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,^[b]
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

John 3:1-17

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." **3** Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." **4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be

born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[h]¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Announcements

- NO Sunday School today
- We are pleased to announce that a plaque in memory of Bob Gardner has been installed on the door to the video and sound equipment in the narthex. We are not only extremely grateful for Linda's generous gift to commemorate her husband, we are grateful for the man who inspired it. Bob will always be remembered as a devoted and committed member of the NRC Church family.