

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter
John Moak – Preaching Elder

The Approach to God

Welcome and Announcements

The Lord be with you
And also, with you

Prelude Coral from Finlandia Sebelius

Votum -

God of all beginnings, you bring a new day, and you promise to journey with us through the hours. Thank you for giving us strength for the journey and the air that we breath to sustain us. And thus, we say, our help is the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

The Call to Worship –

Leader: Sing to our God a new song.

People: God has done marvelous things!

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

People: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Leader: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

People: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

*Hymn Fairest Lord Jesus #135 (First tune)

*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 –

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

Prayer of Confession -

Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. (pause in silent reflection)

Words of Assurance -

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends. If we can forgive our friends, how much more does Christ forgive us?

Prayer of the Day -

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love, that we may show that love to the world. **Amen.**

Anthem

Shepherd Me, O God. Hayes.

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.

Epistle Lesson

1 John 5:1-6

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

Gospel Lesson

John 15:9-17

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

Sermon

How Do We Know What We Know?

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 –

Live in the joy of Christ's love and in all the marvelous things that God is doing! May the righteous fairness of God, the loving friendship of Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit go with you all as you leave this place. Amen.

*The Postlude

Preaeludium in C

Bach

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.
- The Mission of the Month Collection for May will benefit Camp Fowler a Christian Camp and Retreat Center that is a non-profit children's camp grounded in openness, hospitality, and compassionate Christianity. Why spend a week at Camp? Maybe it's to find out that we are all connected and a line in an amazing world of wonders. Possibly it's to discover that there is more to you than you thought and that you can do things you never dreamed. Camp Fowler welcomes all children regardless of race, creed, color, or sexual orientation. Your contribution will provide children with a life changing summer experience. Thank you!

1 John 5: 1-6

Faith Conquers the World

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ^[a] has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, **4** for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. **5** Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Testimony concerning the Son of God

6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15: 9-17

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** I do not call you servants^[a] any longer, because the servant^[b] does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. **17** I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.