

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church  
June 13, 2021  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
Children's Day  
Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck, LCSW – *President, Classis of Schenectady*

### **The Approach to God**

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude:                      Jesus Loves Me a la Mozart - Smith

Votum: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
Amen"

The Call to Worship:

Called to be branches in Christ's body,

**we yearn to be connected to the vine.**

Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures,

**we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.**

Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful  
questions,

**we seek God's nurturing presence.**

Come, let us worship God together.

A Hymn:                      How Firm A Foundation                      369 (first tune)

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: In unison

**God of roots and rootedness. In you we place our trust. But God, we  
confess that sometimes we forget that you are our anchor. We try and do  
things on our own. And God, sometimes the ways you call us to grow  
make us uncomfortable. Forgive us when we try to go our own way. Hold**

**us fast in your grace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Call to New Life: And in response to God's covenant love for us, we respond to God's call on our lives in gratitude, seeking to answer the question posed to us from the prophet Micah who asks: "what does the Lord require of you?"

**To seek justice,  
And love kindness,  
And walk humbly with God.**

Let us go and do likewise – may the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Anthem: The Road Home. Paulus.

### **The Word of God**

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination: Carrie Drapeau

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

Old Testament: Psalm 20 Carrie Drapeau

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

Gospel Lesson: Mark 4:26-34 Addison Kreig

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

Sermon: Fortuitous Faith

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

### **The Response of God's People**

Hymn: Abide With Me: Fast Falls the Eventide 64

## 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

The Postlude: Variations on Jesus' Love - Smith

## Announcements

- Children's Day will take place today. There will be a small in-person Children's Day at 9:30am, with prepackaged ice cream and games to follow. There will also be an online Children's Day with games! We hope that whichever way you wish to attend, you'll join us in celebrating our wonderful children! Blessings to all!
- Summer will soon be upon us and SiCM's summer lunch program is gearing up for a busy season, providing lunches for our youth in Schenectady county. Their biggest need for volunteers this summer is in the packing of lunches for the vans to deliver. Lunches will be packed at SiCM's food pantry site on Albany Street in Schenectady, Monday-Friday from 8-11AM. We have been given the week of July 26-30 to help out. Please consider joining us in this much needed endeavor. Please email Michele Kopp at me at [mishcata@gmail.com](mailto:mishcata@gmail.com), if you are interested.
- An email was sent out to the congregation regarding the possibility of holding our annual Flea Market on September 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are free to volunteer or would like to see the email that was sent out, please contact Ellen at [office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org) by **June 16<sup>th</sup>**!

## Scripture Readings

### Psalm 20

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD answer you in the day of trouble!  
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
- <sup>2</sup> May he send you help from the sanctuary,  
and give you support from Zion.
- <sup>3</sup> May he remember all your offerings,  
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices. *Selah*
- <sup>4</sup> May he grant you your heart's desire,  
and fulfill all your plans.
- <sup>5</sup> May we shout for joy over your victory,  
and in the name of our God set up our banners.  
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.
- <sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD will help his anointed;  
he will answer him from his holy heaven  
with mighty victories by his right hand.
- <sup>7</sup> Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses,  
but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.
- <sup>8</sup> They will collapse and fall,  
but we shall rise and stand upright.
- <sup>9</sup> Give victory to the king, O LORD;  
answer us when we call.<sup>[a]</sup>

### Mark 4:26-34

#### The Parable of the Growing Seed

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

#### The Parable of the Mustard Seed

<sup>30</sup> He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

## **The Use of Parables**

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.