

*Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
July 11, 2021
7th Sunday After 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: *Vande Lombart*

Jacob van Eyck

Votum:

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

The Call to Worship (*from Psalm 24*)

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

The Lord has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, God is the King of glory.

AMEN

A Hymn: *Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun*

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The Salutation and People's Amen:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession: (In unison)

God of Grace, **we confess how difficult it is to truly love the people around us, to care as deeply for their well-being as for our own, to delight in their good fortune without feeling envious. We confess that when we see your blessings bestowed in the lives of others, we sometimes desire to hoard**

your blessings for ourselves. We confess we find it very difficult to love our enemies, as you commanded: to pray for their well-being, to act in their best interests, to leave thoughts of vengeance behind.

(time of silent prayer)

Forgive us. Teach us to whole-heartedly love one another. Teach us to love even those who hurt or offend us. Teach us to let go of our fears and trust that in your Kingdom, there are more than enough blessings to go around. AMEN

Words of Assurance and Law of God:

Friends, hear this Good News: Our God makes peace with us through the work of the cross. Furthermore, Jesus tells us: “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”

We are forgiven children of God, called to join God in the work of forgiveness and peacemaking in the world. Let us love the Lord our God with all that we are, strength, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, so that peace may abound on earth. AMEN

Special Music: *Konzert in G mvt II Adagio*

Johann Christoph Schultze

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

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

Second Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

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

Sermon: “The Blessing Line”

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

Hymn: We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer

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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: *Sonata in F* mvt I Vivace

Georg Philipp Telemann

Announcements

- Our guest musician today is Joey Van Ullen. Welcome Joey!!
- The consistory voted to go forward with our annual Flea Market on September 25th. We still need folks to help with parking and 1 or 2 people to be on hand during the event to help with any emergent issues. If you can help in these (or any other) areas, please contact Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Ellen.
- On June 15th Governor Cuomo announced that New York State reached the 70% vaccination rate. Effective immediately, NYS mandated COVID restrictions are lifted across commercial and social settings. These include: social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, health screening, cleaning and disinfecting protocols and contact information tracing

As there was no mention of updating masking for unvaccinated folks, we ask that if you are not yet fully vaccinated you continue to wear a mask to protect yourself and your fellow congregants.

- Ellen is on vacation from **July 3rd-July 18th**. There will be someone in the office on July 15th to answer the phones. If you have an emergency, please contact Suzi O'Brien at 518-370-5801 (h) or 518-369-5704 (c) or email her at suzinuke@gmail.com. If you have a non-emergency need, please contact Rick Wallace at 518-951-4596.
- God has given us special gifts to share with others. We are looking for people who can play an instrument or sing for a Sunday or two during the summer months. If you have any questions, call the church office or email Andy at Burgera960@gmail.com or Rebecca at benjamin.rebeccalee@gmail.com. There will also be a sheet in the Narthex to sign. Thank you and God bless you!

Scripture Readings

Matthew 5:1-12

5 When Jesus^[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[b] on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 20:1-16

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. **2** After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage,^[a] he sent them into his vineyard. **3** When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; **4** and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. **5** When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. **6** And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' **7** They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' **8** When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' **9** When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.^[b] **10** Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.^[c] **11** And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, **12** saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' **13** But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?^[d] **14** Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. **15** Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'^[e] **16** So the last will be first, and the first will be last."^[f]

