

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
July 18, 2021
8th Sunday After Pentecost
John Moak-Preaching Elder

The Approach to God

Welcome and Announcements

The Lord be with you
And also, with you

Prelude *Kozert in Bb mvt II, Romanze* Carl Stamitz

Votum -

Jesus Christ is our gentle Shepherd. We are his people, longing to know his ways. Keep us safe and secure. We long to know his will and live in his way. Keep us safe and secure in his compassionate hands, and lead us, gentle Shepherd, into new paths of love and service. And thus we say, "Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

The Call to Worship –

Christ says, come away to a deserted place and rest a while. God calls us to quiet and rest, even as we continue to minister to those in need. **Amen.**

*Hymn We Thank Thee, Lord 294
(Verses 1,3,4)

*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, confident in God's love for us.

Prayer of Confession -

God of green pastures, we confess that we can get so busy and distracted that we lose sight of your love and care for us. We forget to live in gratitude and fail to live lives of goodness and mercy. Forgive us, heal us, and lead us down gentle paths that restore our souls. Amen. (pause in silent reflection)

Words of Assurance -

Our Lord Jesus gives us rest and peace. Our Master's touch heals us, and the blood that he shed is our salvation. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day -

Holy One, we want to be the sheep of your pasture. Care for us, feed us, and lead us, we pray. Once we are strengthened by your presence, raise us up to be shepherds ourselves who tend to those who fear and dismay so that our loves may reflect our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Special Music

Sonatina mvt II, Lento

Joseph Horowitz

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

Holy Spirit, come and dwell in us. Place Jesus Christ in us so that he is the cornerstone holding us together and making us a sacred place where love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace will meet. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Ephesians 2: 11-22

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

Gospel Lesson

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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

Sermon

“Are You Compassionate?”

The Response of God's People

*Hymn

Lord, Speak to Me, that I May Speak

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(Verses 1,3,5)

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 –

Seek out your neighbor in love. If it is within your power, be reconciled to your enemies. Hunger and thirst for the rule of Christ Jesus and let him dwell in your minds and hearts. God grant you peace in your sleeping and waking; Christ fill you with joy in your working and playing; the Holy Spirit drive you with passion in your love for God. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

*The Postlude

Canzonetta

Gabriel Pierne

Announcements

- Our guest musician today is Joey Van Ullen. Welcome back 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.
- 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!
- We are planning on having the second Brooks BBQ of the 2021 season. It will be **Wednesday, August 18th, 3-6 PM**. We need volunteers to help us the day of the BBQ. There will be a need for inside help: assembling the chicken dinners, bagging dinners, and transporting dinners to the pickup tables. Outside help: ticket sales, traffic direction, and runners to take assembled dinners to the cars. We will also need someone to keep track of the number of dinners sold. We will still be using the prepackaged cookies that Brooks will supply. If you can volunteer, please contact Kim Cerone @ 518-339-7504 or purdyka@aol.com. If you are unable to volunteer, the best way you can help us is to swing in and purchase a great meal.

Dinners (half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll/butter, and cookie): \$12.00

Half Chicken only: \$8.00

Ephesians 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" --a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands--remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And

wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.