

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
August 22, 2021
13th Sunday After Pentecost
Rev. Jason White, Associate Minister - First Reformed Church of Scotia

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude: Traumerie Schumann

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

The Call to Worship (From Psalm 84)

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**We long to be where You are; to stand in Your very presence,
and to behold You, face to face!**

And so we have come to this place today;

**we have gathered together to worship You—
to offer the praise which belongs to You alone.**

Bless us as we worship You together, and as we open our hearts and
minds to Your presence among us.

For You alone are God, the One in whom we trust.

A Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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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**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

If it was easy to follow Jesus, we would not need to ask for forgiveness.
But it is tough—tough to say 'yes,' tough to be graceful, tough to be loving.

**Yet whatever we do, God loves us enough to forgive us and to feed
us with the Bread of Life.**

**God, our sun and shield: we may long to be in your house,
but our deeds show how tough it is for us to live there.**

Called to follow, we search for paths to take us back to our old ways

given the words of eternal life, we weakly proclaim the gospel to others; offered the path of salvation to walk upon, we stumble down the rocky roads of our world.

Forgive us, Guardian of our lives. Strengthen us with your Spirit, so we may follow Jesus Christ, the One we have come to believe and know is our Lord and Savior.

Words of Assurance

Today, receive the Bread of Life;
today, hear the words of eternal hope;
today, trust in the One who hears your prayers,
and showers grace and forgiveness upon you.

Today, we are set free to serve God's people, and to sing God's praises. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Call to New Life

Anthem: Allegro con molto from Concerto No. 17 for Bassoon

Vivaldi

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament:

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43

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

Gospel Lesson:

John 6:56-69

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

Sermon: Running out of Faith

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

Hymn: O Love Divine, That Stooped to Share

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The 2022 offering envelopes are due on October 1st. If you wish to receive offering envelopes or to stop receiving envelopes, please email Ellen @ office@niskayunareofrmed.org by **September 30th**. If you **DON'T** have any changes and wish to continue receiving envelopes, there is no need to contact Ellen. There are several envelopes that were never picked up from 2021, mostly due to COVID. If you still want them for the remainder of the year, please call the office at 518-785-5575 and they can be left out for you to pick up.

Once again, the volunteers that helped with the Brooks BBQ on August 18th did an outstanding job! On behalf of the M & SC, I would like to thank all of you. Despite having to wait a little bit for some of the chickens to finish cooking, everything ran smoothly. I would also like to thank the congregation for their support the day of the BBQ. Through yours and the community's generosity we were able to sell 211 halves and 787 dinners. We made a profit of \$6,941.10. We started with 900 halves on the pit. By 3pm we had gone through 200, so asked for an extra 100. It took us a little longer, but we sold out by about 5:30. Stay safe and healthy...Kim Cerone, BBQ Chairperson

Scripture

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³ He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with

all their heart, ²⁴ the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵ Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' ²⁶ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷ "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸ Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰ Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

⁴¹ "Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴² —for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³ then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

John 6:56-69

⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from

the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."^[a]