

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
August 29, 2021
14th Sunday After Pentecost
Rev. Dr. Victoria Brooks

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude: Caro Mio Ben Giordani

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

The Call to Worship

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
Who walk according to the law of the Lord.
Blessed are those who keep his statutes,
And seek God with all their heart.
We will praise you with upright hearts,
As we learn your righteous laws.

A Hymn: There is a Wideness in God's Mercy 110
First tune

The Salutation and People's Amen: Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is
higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
deeper than all our sin.
Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,

our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.
Help us to change our way of life
so that we may desire what is good,
love what you love,
and do what you command,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Special Music: On Eagle's Wings

Joncas/Kingsbury

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination

May this reading offer insight into your divine ways in the world. Make us receptive to the message they hold for us today.

Old Testament: Ephesians 5:8-14

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

Gospel Lesson: John 9:24-41

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

Sermon: "When the Light is Dim"

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

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 (Please stand if you are able.)

The Postlude: One Spirit, One Church

Keil

Announcements

Our special guest musician today will be Kacie Rea. Welcome Kacie!

We thank you for your patience and concern for each other as shown by wearing a mask indoors while our counties' COVID transmission level is designated as "HIGH" by the CDC. No other changes are deemed necessary at this time. We do ask that during coffee hours you put your mask back on when not eating or drinking.

Our annual Flea Market will be on September 25th from 9am- 4pm. We still need folks to help with this event. We need folks to sign up to make our famous vegetable soup, chili, chowder and pies. Please sign to help, or to make one of our delicious food items with Ellen, and she can send you the recipes for the soup, chili or chowder.

The H & A committee will host two Revolutionary War cemetery tours on Saturday, October 2nd. The first tour begins at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. There are **no** advance reservations required this year. Please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your tour time to check in, inside of Fellowship Hall. A \$5 donation will be collected at the door in support of the church's archives preservation projects.

There will be complimentary cider, donuts, and cookies along with a video presentation for those who wish to stay indoors.

The 2022 offering envelopes are due. If you wish to receive offering envelopes or to stop receiving envelopes, please contact Ellen 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. If you still want them, please call the office at 518-785-5575.

Our NRC family pulls it off AGAIN!! Lori Meguin of the City Mission thanks each and every one of us for our school supply donations for 2021. She is amazed each year by the generosity of our church. Various organizations that the Mission supports include Big Brothers, Northern Rivers, Street Soldiers... to name a few. Special thanks go to the O'Brien family as well-Mike amassed so many items, he had them shipped to them!! Thank you NRC!!

Scripture

Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

John 9:24-41

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open

your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"^[a] ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir?^[b] Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord,^[c] I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.