

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
September 26, 2021
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Bill Levering

The Approach to God

The Lord be with you
And also, with you

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Great is the Lord with Morning has Broken Smith/Ham

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

The Call to Worship –**This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Hymn Tell Me the Stories of Jesus 459

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

Prayer of Confession (unison) -**O God of good news, kindle hope in us this morning. We confess that we are depressed and anxious and have trouble hearing words of hope. Sneak up on us today, we pray. Wiggle your grace into our hearts so that we might lift our eyes once again.**

Words of Assurance -**Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Call to New Life- **Let us live like we believe this. Amen.**

Anthem My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Thompson

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination (in unison)- **May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 5:1-7

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

Gospel Lesson Matthew 13: 31-35, 44-52

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

Sermon “Tales from the Lake“

The Response of God's People

*Hymn I Love to Tell the Story 383

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.)

Announcements

Rev. Viki Brooks will begin holding weekly office hours on Thursdays from 11 am- 3 pm, to provide pastoral support for our Church family. She is happy to have private conversations with you regarding the church, your faith, your relationships, or the general state of the world! While Rev. Brooks is not a licensed therapist, she is an excellent listener and an experienced pastor who has served the greater Church for 36 years. Rev Brooks was also the chaplain at Union College for 20 years. You may reach her at the church in the Christian Ed office or call or text her at (518) 698-7496 to set up a meeting.

The History & Archives (H & A) Committee will host two Revolutionary War cemetery tours on Saturday, October 2nd. The tours begin at 10 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.

We have a small team of volunteers who run the YouTube live-streaming every week and we would like to add to that number. After about an hour of training, the only time commitment is helping with the streaming every "so often." How often depends on how many people join the team, and we're looking for two or more. That would mean helping for two Sundays out of eight. For teenagers, this would be great experience and looks good on college or job applications. For those of us who are not quite teenagers anymore, it's fun and a great service for the church. If you're interested, want more information or want to see how it works before deciding, contact Leo Lichtig (lichtl@aol.com) or anyone else on the Stream Team.

- Parents with infants and small children are reminded of the room behind the balcony with an audio system to hear the worship service if needed.

Scripture

Isaiah 5:1-7

5 I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.
3 “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
4 What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?
5 Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
6 I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briars and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.”
7 The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Matthew 13: 31-35, 44-52

³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds^[a] of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

³⁴ Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵ So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”^[b]

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”