

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
October 17, 2021
Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
Rev. Norman J. Tellier, D.Min

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude: Sing to the Lord on High Livingston

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

The Call to Worship:

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

People: **The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him.**

Leader: Surely the Lord is in this place;

People: **This is none other than the house of God.**

Leader: Let us lift up our hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

A Hymn: When Morning Gilds the Skies 41

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 (unison): **Most merciful and gracious God, forgive us that in our money-centered culture we so easily develop the acquisitive spirit at the cost of a thankful heart. In secret we have worshiped the works of our hands seeking the applause of the world, which seems more to us than faithfulness to you.**

Stir our memories lest praise be thwarted by a failure to recall your goodness. Forgive us for having squandered time, misused opportunity, blurred the focus of our loyalties, resisted growth, and grievously neglected your love. Humble us with a penitence for our sins that does some good. Inspire us with Christ's mercy, that we may live more thoughtful and generous lives for his sake as well as our own. In Jesus'

name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Call to New Life

Anthem: I Surrender All

Arr. Hogan

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination: Open our hearts and lips, O God, to bless and praise you. Speak to every heart the word most needed and to all of us grant your forgiveness, assurance of your unfailing love, and a more vivid sense of your presence in our worship. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our lord, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson:

Job 38:1-7

Epistle Lesson:

Hebrews 5:1-10

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

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 25:14-30

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

Sermon:

Being Accountable

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

Hymn: "Saviour! Thy Dying Love"

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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.

Hymn: Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground

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The Benediction (Please stand if you are able.)

Benediction Response

The Postlude: Variations on "Lyons" (O Worship The King)

Haydn/Ritter

Announcements

Our guest "office" preacher, Rev. Viki Brooks will **NOT** be holding office hours October 14th & October 21st. She will return on Thursday, October 28th.

Today, we will be celebrating those of us who have been members of NRC for 50 or more years! Certificates of commemoration were sent to them in the spring; and we will be honoring these special folks on Sunday for their long commitment and service to God and the Church. Please join either of us in-person or virtually if you are able. For those in-person, History & Archives will be hosting coffee hour with some special treats.

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

Job 38:1-7

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

² "Who is this that obscures my plans
with words without knowledge?"

³ Brace yourself like a man;

I will question you,
and you shall answer me.

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

⁶ On what were its footings set,
or who laid its cornerstone—

⁷ while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels^[a] shouted for joy?

Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³ This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. ⁴ And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”^[a]

⁶ And he says in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”^[b]

⁷ During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on

his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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