

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
October 31, 2021
Twenty-Third 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: When The Saints Go Marching In Traditional/Agay

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

The Call to Worship:

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart,

People: **For they shall see God.**

Leader: O Lord, open wide our lips:

People: **Our mouths shall sing your praise!**

A Hymn: I Sing the Mighty Power of God 84
First tune

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: **Forgive us, O God, that with the cross as a starting
point we have made our Christian faith a bland and easy-going way of life.
Forgive us that our preference runs to Bethlehem and Joseph's garden, to
poinsettias and lilies, and away from your love on Golgotha.**

**Forgive us that we are more willing to see the needs of only those near us
rather than seeking to help those we do not know.**

**Forgive us, O God, that we value the concrete possessions of life and
neglect the abiding values of the realm of the spirit.**

**Stir us now to such new understanding that we will be able to die to
ourselves and begin to live for Christ. It is in his name we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Call to New Life

Anthem:

Sine Nomine

Vaughan Williams

The Word of God

The Prayer for Illumination: **O Holy Spirit, re-collect our thoughts. Turn us toward Christ. Come to us as truth, as power, as love, that we may know you in all your fullness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Old Testament Lesson:

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Epistle Lesson:

Hebrews 9:11-14

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

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 12:28-34

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

Sermon:

“Simple Commands”

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

Hymn:

Jesus Calls Us

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Remembrance of the Saints

Anthony Levitto

Doris Cavanaugh

Elizabeth Ferson

Gladys Hawthorne

Fay Levitto

Lois Danis

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: All Things Bright and Beautiful 456

The Benediction (Please stand if you are able.)

Benediction Response

The Postlude: Toccata in D Minor Bach

Announcements

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit Saratoga War Horse. This is a Veteran-run nonprofit organization serving Military Veterans and Service Members living with Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) throughout the United States. Their participants' trauma is most often a result of combat experiences, Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and/or transitioning from military to civilian life. They help these Veterans to move past their trauma by partnering them with rescued and retired off-the-track Thoroughbred racehorses by providing a healing, equine-assisted experience. To learn more please visit www.saratogawarhorse.org Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The Library Committee will host an Information Table during coffee hour after Worship on Sunday, November 7. Please visit us by the Library on the lower level of the Education Building to ask questions, to drop off your donations of books, CDs, DVDs, or funds to help expand our holdings. We look forward to seeing you!

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

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.^[a] ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them o

Hebrews 9:11-14

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here,^[a] he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining^[b] eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,^[c] so that we may serve the living God!

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’^[a] ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with

all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’^[b] ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[c] There is no commandment greater than these.”

³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.