

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Rev. Rett Zabriskie

Preparation for Worship

All our speech to one another finally somehow obligates; "law" is the necessary discourse of all community. The next obvious question: Whence derives the force of this obligation? "Interrupt your progress at stop signs," you tell me. But if I ask, "Who says so?" is your only response "I say so?" Western social theory since the Renaissance has been a single long effort to find a response that does not involve your saying, "God says so." It must now be accepted that the attempt fails. The West is relearning by bitter experience what every field anthropologist has known all along, that the appearance and perdurance of community depend finally upon the community's religion. Our living together depends upon the presence among us of, as the Chinese used to call it, "the mandate of heaven." Robert Jenson

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements.

The Prelude: From Bethlehem Hills

Birchwood

Introit

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

The Call to Worship: *(from Psalm 71)*

Leader: O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!

People: Let my accusers be put to shame and consumed; let those who seek to hurt me be covered with scorn and disgrace.

Leader: But I will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more.

People: My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all day long, though their number is past my knowledge.

Leader: I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD, I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.

People: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come. Your power and your righteousness, O God, reach the high heavens.

*A Hymn: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart 407

*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: **Father in Heaven, we confess, as all the old prayers say, that we are strangers with you, as all our forbears were. We believe and we try to be faithful, but we are often not sure about your dealings with us. We wonder if it is you speaking or just our own needs. Confirm us Lord in our faith. Have mercy upon us and forgive our sin. In Jesus Name, AMEN**

Words of Assurance

Anthem: It Is Well With My Soul Sterling/Bliss

The Word of God

The Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 1:1-10

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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

The Junior Sermon

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:21-30

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

Sermon: "Wind in the Willows"

Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County! It's a fresh new year and the beginning of a new food cycle in our food system! Plan your garden and share seeds at the Schenectady Seed Share! Join SiCM, Schenectady Urban Farms, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County for an afternoon of garden planning and skill sharing, tastings of locally grown food, and conclude with a seed exchange in the SiCM Community Hub from 12-3pm on February 5th. To register, look for the information online on our website under **NEWS**. You can find the registration link.

URGENT NEED!!! NRC is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Saturday, February 12th** from 8am- 1 pm. Social distancing and safety measures will be in place to keep donors and employees safe, while giving blood. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.

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

Jeremiah 1:1-10

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, ² to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. ³ It came also in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly,^[b] but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at

Capernaum.”²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.²⁷ There were also many lepers^[a] in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.