

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
June 26, 2022
Third Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship: It is not permissible to consider prayer as a good work to be done, as a pious, nice and pretty duty to be performed. Prayer can not be for us a means of creating something, of making a gift to God and to ourselves. We are faced by a great void and have everything to receive and learn from God. Karl Barth

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements.

Prelude: The Light

Bareilles

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

Call to Worship: (Isaiah 1)

Leader: Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:

People: THOUGH YOUR SINS ARE LIKE SCARLET THEY SHALL BE LIKE SNOW;

Leader: Though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

People: IF YOU ARE WILLING AND OBEDIENT, YOU SHALL EAT THE GOOD OF THE LAND.

Leader: But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword.

People: BEHOLD THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN.

*Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

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

Prayer of Confession: **Father in Heaven, we confess that we offend you and others by getting satisfaction out of being right. There is something in the errors of our friends that does not displease us, and a devilish satisfaction is found in correcting them. Teach us Lord to be who we are in humility, not arrogance. Let us strive for love more than for accuracy. Have mercy upon us and forgive our sin.**

Words of Assurance

*Gloria Patri: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Special Music: Turning Page

O'Neal/Cohen

The Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson:

2 Kings 2:1-14

Epistle Lesson:

Galatians 5:1-25

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

The Junior Sermon

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 9:51-62

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

*Hymn O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

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Sermon: "I Am Sincere and Helpful, You Are A Nit-Picking Legalist, He Is Snide And Self-Righteous"

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

Offering

Offertory Annie's Song Denver

*Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

Profession of Faith for Confirmands

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 At the Name Of Jesus (Tune King's Weston) 143

*The Benediction

Postlude: Fracanapa Piazzolla

*Please stand if you are able.

Announcements

Today, we celebrate the confirmations of Addison Kreig, Hope Waxman, and Hailey Waxman. We welcome them officially to our church as they make this final step in their profession of faith and support them with our prayers and love in Christ.

We welcome back Joey Van Ullen as our guest musician today. Thank you for joining us!

God has given us special gifts to share with others. We are looking for people who can play an instrument or sing for a Sunday or two during the summer months. If you have any questions, call the church office or email Andy at Burgera960@gmail.com or Rebecca at benjamin.rebeccalee@gmail.com. There will also be a sheet in the Narthex to sign. Thank you and God bless you!

In lieu of our regular service, the worship committee will be holding a hymn sing in the courtyard on July 3rd. While there won't be a sermon or scripture readings, we can worship together with song and some special music. Please send requests for your favorite hymns to Sharon Rice Herbst sriceherbst@gmail.com by June 28th, to help us prepare for our time together. In case of bad weather, we will move into the sanctuary.

At long last, SiCM is finally able to resume site-based summer meals for the children of Schenectady. Mobile delivery continues for some areas; however, we have been able to sign up for Wallingford Park in Mont Pleasant, a familiar location to many of us. SiCM is requesting 4 NRC volunteers per day for the week of July 18-22, from 12:15-1:30 PM. Please text Michele Kopp at 518-424-3825 if you are interested in helping out. Thank you all for your continued support of this program!

For the month of June in honor of Father's Day, we will be collecting Men's personal care products—shampoo/conditioner, body wash, deodorant, razors, hairbrushes, and general toiletry items. The Food Pantry is now accepting volunteers - call the pantry at 518-346-4445 for more information or email volunteer@sicm.us. Monetary donations are also welcome and can often purchase more food per dollar than we often realize. There is a green collection box in the narthex. ***Every donation impacts lives.***

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit Wildwood Programs. Wildwood began operating over 50 years ago as a local, not for profit organization that was formed when a group of parents found that their children did not fit neatly into existing programs. Today, Wildwood meets the needs of the individuals it supports with a person-centered, holistic approach where a wide range of education, employment, residential, recreation and counseling services work collaboratively to maximize a person's independence. Your donation will enable Wildwood Programs to continue supporting local families with special needs. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank 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

2 Kings 2:1-14

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.” ⁴ Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho. ⁵ The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.” ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on. ⁷ Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸ Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. ¹⁰ “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.” ¹¹ As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two. ¹³ Elisha then picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. “Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

Galatians 5:1-25

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

⁷ You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! ¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^[b] ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever^[c] you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Luke 9:51-62

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them^[a]?” ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” ⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”