

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
July 30, 2023
Ninth 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 Impromptu Schubert

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

The Call to Worship:

Leader: We are people who have been called to follow where God leads us.

People: By faith we can obey, even when asked to walk into an unknown future.

Leader: We are people who have been challenged to tell God's story to others.

People: By faith we have the ability to share the good news.

Leader: We are God's children who are invited to feast at the Table of grace.

People: By faith we will embrace our sisters and brothers in Christ.

*A Hymn: "Praise Ye the Lord" Hymnbook, 1

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

The Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession: **Forgive us Lord, for the many times we have been willing to follow things other than you. Forgive us for desiring comfort and riches so much that we would do anything to get them.**

Forgive us for putting ourselves in place of you. Forgive us, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison: **Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The Words of Assurance and Call to New Life

Special Music: You'll Never Walk Alone Rogers and Hammerstein

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 105:1-8

*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.**

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:26-39
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A Sermon: "Don't Give Up Hope!"

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

*A Hymn: "Amazing Grace" Hymnbook, 275

The Offering

The Offertory For the Mountains Shall Depart Mendelssohn

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

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.

A Hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Hymnbook, 91

*The Benediction

The Postlude Variations on "Lyons" Haydn/Ritter

Announcements

The July Mission of the Month collection will be supporting RCA - Global Mission, specifically through missionary work with the Al Amana Centre in Oman. Several RCA missionaries working there have ties to our area. The Al Amana Center is an ecumenical and interfaith organization built upon the legacy of over 130 years of Christians working with their Muslim hosts and neighbors from different faiths represented in Oman. Al Amana Centre provides safe spaces, diverse encounters, and engaging methodologies for people of faith to build sustainable peace.

The Church would like to provide childcare during services for your children 2 years old and younger. To do so we need to know 1) if you would use it and 2) if you are interested in signing up to be on a schedule of childcare providers. This is a great way for our High School kids to earn volunteer hours for the National Honor Society! Please contact Suzi O'Brien (at suzinuke@gmail.com) with questions or to let us know if childcare during the service is something you would like to see reinstated.

The Mission and Service Committee is asking the membership to consider volunteering for the Brooks BBQ on Wednesday, August 16th. We need help the day of the BBQ, both inside and out. BROWNIES!!! Baking and donating brownies is another great way to help if you can't volunteer the day of the BBQ. If you can volunteer Wednesday, August 16th, between 2:30 and 6PM, there will be signup sheets for volunteering and baking brownies in the main hall of the Education Building starting the weekend of July 22nd. If you are unable to make it into church and would like to volunteer in some way, please call me (Kim Cerone) @ 518-339-7504 or email me at purdyka@aol.com. Please leave your name and contact information, and I will get back to you.

Scripture

Psalm 105:1-8

- O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
- ³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
- ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,
- ⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham,^[a]
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- ⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgements are in all the earth.
- ⁸ He is mindful of his covenant for ever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes^[a] with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God,^[b] who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit^[c] intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.^[d]

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good^[e] for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.^[f] ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.^[g] ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' ³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with^[a] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'