

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church
June 16, 2024
Forth Sunday after Pentecost
John Moak – Preaching Elder

The Approach to God

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

Welcome and announcements

Prelude Love at Home McNaughton/DeFord

Votum

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

Call to Worship

Mark 4:31-32

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds on earth.

It grows up and becomes the greatest of shrubs, and the birds of the air make nests in its shade.

Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming.

Thanks be to God!

*Hymn of Worship “God of The Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

Lift Up Your Hearts, 281

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

Unison Prayer –

Creating God, your reign of love makes all things new. Plant seeds of confidence and gladness in our hearts, so that, trusting your word, we may live no longer for ourselves but for him who died and was raised for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Moment of Silent Prayer

*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 Father Hymn Medley Hemy/Sheppard/Jackson

The Word of God

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17
This is the Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

*Gospel Reading Mark 4:26-34
This is the Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon “We Need a New Story” John Moak

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

*Hymn of Worship “For the Beauty of the Earth” (Verses 1,2,3,4)
Lift Up Your Hearts, 19

The Response of God's People

The Offering

Offertory May the Lord Bless You and Keep You Willson

*The Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Prayers of the People and 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 of Worship “For the Fruit of All Creation”

Lift Up Your Hearts, 396

*The Benediction

The Postlude

O My Father

Bailey

(*) Please stand if you are able.

Service Participants:

John Moak – Preaching Elder

Scott Haefner - Liturgist

Mel Burger - Guest Musician

Rebecca Benjamin - Organist/Pianist

Andrew Burger - Choir Director

Announcements

We are still looking for some more volunteers for some of the events of our summer of service week and would like to open it up now to any adults who would like to join during the week. We are looking for more volunteers to join us at the Vale Urban Farm on Monday July 1 from 9:00am to 11:00am. The City Mission Donation Center July 2nd from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The City Mission Dinner Service July 3rd from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are able to come and serve with us!

As part of the Stewardship Committee efforts to keep church members in the loop about our finances, this will be included every month. The finances from the previous month will now be posted every month and compared to last year to give you a gage of where we stand. Keep in mind there are many factors, and it might not always be as straightforward as it looks but we wanted to be as transparent as possible, For the month of May our offerings for 2023 were \$11,390 and \$16,929 for 2024.

Please note: There is only ONE Summer Messenger for July & August. All items are due **Friday, June 21st**. You can always add items to the bulletin and weekly e-newsletter. Also remember, all items for the e-newsletter need to be submitted by Tuesday at 2 pm. Thank you for your attention to this!!

The Mission of the Month collection will benefit local teachers who spend their own money to make their classrooms a welcoming environment and ensure all students have all the supplies they need for the upcoming school year. Mission and Service along with the Women's Fellowship Group will work together over the summer to fulfill as many requests as possible. Watch for more information as to how you can help those within the NRC Congregation and the local community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Our June collection for Sycamore Collaborative (formerly SiCM) will be men's personal products including deodorant, shaving cream, razors etc. Food items, all personal care items are always welcome. Thank you, NRC family, for your continued support of this organization. As a deliverer of collected items, I see the joy and hear the thanks of the dedicated staff who welcome the donations. You make a difference!

Pastor Sherri & Mike will be out of the office till June 19th for the General Synod Meeting. John Moak is our guest preacher today. Please contact John or any consistory members with pastoral needs when they are gone.

Longtime former church member, Evelyn Los, passed away on February 9th in Colorado. Evelyn belonged to NRC for many years where she worked as a preschool teacher for almost 29 years and was a volunteer for Stephen Ministry. Her family will be having a service for Evelyn on June 22nd at 11am in the church, followed by a small luncheon in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Please mark your calendars!! Our Annual Flea Market is scheduled for **Saturday, September 21st**. We need LOTS of volunteers to make this event successful. Volunteer requests will go out in late August but if you know you can help on either Thursday (September 19th) or Friday (September 20th) evening to help with prep work or you would like to be a

kitchen volunteer, parking attendant or runner you can email Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org. This is a great team building event and a great way to meet other church members, especially if you are new to NRC. We hope to make this the MOST successful Flea Market ever!! Join in the fun!

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17

5:6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord --

5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

5:8 Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

5:9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

5:10 For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

5:12 We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart.

5:13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

5:14 For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

5:15 And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for

themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

5:17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mark 4:26-34

4:26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,

4:27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

4:28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

4:29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

4:30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

4:31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;

4:32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

4:33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it;

4:34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.