

Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church  
August 4, 2024  
Eleventh 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:                      Casta Diva                                      Bellini

Votum: 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:                      "Come, We That Love the Lord"                                      The Hymnbook, 408

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just. He will forgive our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

Our Prayer of Confession: **We come before you, O God, knowing our need for forgiveness. Forgive us for being content with easy religion, for our envy of too much money and our habit of too little charity. Forgive us for the cultivation of an indifference toward others of your people whom you love as much as you love us. Remind us that we are called together in your kingdom and that it is your pleasure to give it to us. Help us to fully serve you. (silent prayer) In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen**

Kyrie Eleison:

**Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The Words of Assurance

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

The Call to New Life

Let us live out the new life by serving others and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ

Special Music    En priere

Faure

### **The Word of God**

The Prayer for Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your word. Silence in us any voices but your own that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

The Epistle Lesson:

Ephesians 4:1-16

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

\*The Gospel Lesson:

John 6:24-35

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

A Sermon:

"Receiving and Giving"

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

### **The Response of God's People**

\*A Hymn: "If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee"

The Hymnbook, 344

The Offering

The Offertory:

Candle on the Water

Kasha/Hirschhorn

\*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
The Meaning of the Sacrament  
The Invitation  
The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**For it is holy and right to do so!**

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty .... adore your glorious name.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Most righteous God .... Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died!**

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ will come again!**

The Words of Institution  
Sharing of the bread and the cup

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"

The Hymnbook, 91

\*The Benediction

The Postlude: The Spark of Creation

Schwartz

(\*) Please stand if you are able

**Service Participants:**

Rev. Norman J. Tellier, D.Min.-Guest Preacher

Suzi O'Brien- Liturgist

Amy Shake, soprano- Guest Musician

Rebecca Benjamin - Organist/Pianist

**Announcements**

Our guest musician today is Amy Shake. Amy is a voice teacher, performer, and music director from Clifton Park, NY.

For our regular worship service on August 11, the worship committee will be holding a hymn sing in the **sanctuary** on August 11th. We'll have lemonade, cookies and ice cream in the lounge following the service. 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 [slriceherbst@gmail.com](mailto:slriceherbst@gmail.com) by August 2nd, to help us prepare for our time together.

Many thanks to the following NRC members for volunteering to serve summer lunches in Central Park. Lynn DeSignore, Kim Cerone, Eileen Eldred, Joan Peebles, Dorilee Male, Pastor Mike and Sophie Meyer-Veen. Although the weather was a challenge and the number of customers was low (highest was 6 on Thursday), we managed to fill the time with conversation and laughter. Much appreciated team NRC.

Our Mission of the Month Collection for August will benefit **C.R.E.A.T.E Community Studios**, a local organization dedicated to providing a space where the benefits of art-making impact both the individual and the community as a whole. They offer low-cost art workshops and groups, community wellness activities, and open studios to promote art-making and the creative process as a vehicle for personal growth, communication, and social change.

NRC's August collection is school supplies for students attending Schenectady City School District. The City Mission will be distributing these supplies to the schools to assist with a successful start to the school year. Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors.

The second Brooks BBQ of the season is just around the corner. It will be Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM – SOLD OUT. We need volunteers to help us the day of the BBQ, both inside and out.

**BROWNIES!!!** Baking and donating brownies is a great way to help if you can't volunteer the day of the BBQ.

If you can volunteer Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, between 2:15 and 6PM, there will be signup sheets for volunteering and baking brownies in the main hall of the Education Building at the end of July.

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](mailto:purdyka@aol.com). Please leave your name and contact information, and I will get back to you. Thank you, Kim Cerone, BBQ Chairperson

Pastor Sherri & Mike will be on vacation till August 20. In case of an emergency or if you have a pastoral need please contact any consistory member.

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 19<sup>th</sup>) or Friday (September 20<sup>th</sup>) 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](mailto: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

### **Ephesians 4:1-16**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,

he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

## **John 6:24-35**

Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

<sup>30</sup> So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’<sup>[a]</sup>”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”