

Clarkstown Reformed Church Online
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Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost



October 25, 2020

Clarkstown Reformed Church
107 Strawtown Road
West Nyack, New York 10994

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Rev. Richard Hasselbach
Pastor

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

OPENING WORDS — *Pastor Rich*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all of the law and the prophets.

PRELUDE: *Love Is Here* by Ingram, Larue, Donehey, Jamison,
and Middleton ~Alexandra Woodruff, soprano

GREETING: *Pastor Rich*

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP: *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* ~Beth Valenti, mezzo soprano

GOD'S LAW: — *Steve Johnson*

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might

have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.¹
Thessalonians 2:1-8

SPECIAL MUSIC by Deonna & Justin Footman and Garland Townsend

CALL TO CONFESSION — *Pastor Rich*

Let us speak the truth about ourselves to our neighbors and to God, acknowledging what we have done and what we have left undone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Steve Johnson*

Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess:

We have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We have judged unjustly, regarded others ungenerously,
Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

We have profited at the losses of those near and distant,
borne grudges, desired vengeance, and kept silence in the
face of wrongdoing.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We long to live in accord with your desire that your way of
compassion, kindness, and honesty will govern our hearts

and minds, turning us toward lives of peace. Forgive us and lead us. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS — *Pastor Rich*

Brothers and sisters, the Holy One who promises forgiveness to those who seek the good hears your confession. As the crucified and risen child of God, your Redeemer fully knows your sorrow and your desire for reconciled relationships. You are forgiven. In that promise is the power to love your neighbors and yourselves as beloved of God who created all that exists.

May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you

PEACE

Please now share with each other some sign of God's peace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE - *Dona Nobis Pacem* traditional canon ~Psalm C Singers Women

RECEIVING GOD IN WORD AND SACRAMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — *Led by Steve Johnson*

Come, Holy Spirit, in the Word of God, as the breath of life, amidst your people gathered here, into our hearts and minds. Stir us to know the happiness of life in your blessings. Amen.

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 *Read by Dr. Kevin Frisson*

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. You shall not render

an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Psalm 1 ~Gabriela Mikova Johnson, mezzo soprano

Matthew 22:34-46 Read by Steve Johnson

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?"

No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Message: It's all about Love

HYMN: *God Is Love* ~Fiorela Miria, soprano

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *Steve & Gabi Johnson*

With the whole church

We affirm that we are made in God's image, Befriended by Christ, Empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere

We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planed more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation

We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, The unfolding poses of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.

~Iona Abbey Worship Book

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor Rich: For the sake of all that is needed by Earth, its people, and our churches, let us pray, saying, God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Steve Johnson: For people of faith in every land, in every religion, and in every home,

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Steve Johnson: For the church of Christ, Holy God, hear our prayer. For world leaders, peacekeepers, diplomats, and government workers,

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Steve Johnson: For trees and plants, creatures large and small, for pets and working animals, for oceans, winds, and soil,

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Steve Johnson: For farmers in this harvest time, for those who fish and hunt, for those who ship and store what is gathered, and for those who cook and serve,

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Steve Johnson: For our nation as it prepares for an election, guide our people and bless those who lead us and who will be elected to lead us.

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Steve Johnson: For those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. Comfort them in their need and help those who care for them. Teach us to bear the burdens of our sisters and brothers with humility. For the sick and those in distress,

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Steve Johnson: We pray for the health and safety of all medical professionals, especially Dr. Donna McNamara, Dr. Kevin Frison, Dr. Jon Thorndike and his wife Dr. Terra Schaezel-Hill, and Dr. Mark C. Johnson; and for our Nurses: Mertella Munroe, Alexandra Woodruff and her husband Dymitri Shamkalovich, Carla Quinlan, Paula Snyder, Peg Cornell, Andie Strangi, Libby Black, Jill Felter, Claudia Wenger, and Marylou Prinzivalli.

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Steve Johnson: For the intentions of our congregation ... [A time of silence is kept.]

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Pastor Rich: To you, O God, Maker of heaven and earth, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the grace and peace of Christ we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY — *Pastor Rich*

With thanksgiving for the bounty of this earth, the work we have been given to do, the joy of sharing so that others may also live, we gather our gifts at this time, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *Love Each Other* by Graham Kendrick ~Will Brown, baritone

PRAYER OF DEDICATION - **Pastor Rich**

Generous and life-giving God, you made your people in your image, sent your Son to be the face of your healing love in our midst, and promised through the Holy Spirit your guidance and power. We thank you for the ways in which your people have cared for each of us. We thank you for the ability to give for the sake of others. We ask your blessing on these offerings that through them the needs of this world can be met. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to and explanation of Virtual Communion

Eucharistic Prayer and Communion

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

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God,
through your beloved servant Jesus Christ,
through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit
Christ was born of Mary,

and shared our human nature.

With loving arms outstretched upon the cross for us,
Jesus broke the chains of evil and destruction.

By his resurrection your will was fulfilled
and you gathered a holy people to offer you praise.

Now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim your glory, as we pray:

Holy, Holy, Holy - Fiorela Miria, soprano & Chris Cantu, tenor

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
in whom your fullness dwells.
You sent him to us to be the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love,
Jesus taught those who would hear him,
healed those who believed in him,
received all who sought him,
and lifted the burden of their sin.

We glorify you for your great power and love at work in
Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,
you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and
death, and made us a new people by water and the Spirit.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus,
on the night before he died, took bread,
and after giving thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.
Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
we take this bread and this wine
from the gifts you have given us,
and celebrate with joy
the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
that our lives may proclaim the crucified and risen one.
Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless

may be our communion in the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Help us, O God, to love as Christ loved.
Knowing our own weakness,
may we stand with all who stumble.
Sharing in his suffering,
may we remember all who suffer.
Held in his love,
may we embrace all whom the world denies.
Rejoicing in his forgiveness,
may we forgive all who sin against us.

Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever.

COMMUNION HYMN: *A Communion Hymn* ~Chris Cantu, tenor

Communion Is shared virtually but together during the Communion Hymn

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of creation, you have made us to be nourished in your care, and you test us so that we will turn again and again toward your gifts. Show us how to love our neighbors and ourselves, and teach us to delight in your law so that we will know the way of gratitude and thanksgiving. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

SENDING & BLESSING:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind ... and your neighbor as yourself.

And may the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* arranged by Joel Raney ~Susan Brown, organ

Please stay after the conclusion of the service to share some time with each other on our Zoom call. If you need help connecting to these calls, please call Pastor Rich and you and he can be confused together!

Thanks to all who helped pull our online service. Special thanks to Gwen Tundermann who brilliantly edits and produces our final product. Thanks, too to Susan Brown, our amazing music director, pianist,

and accompanist who chooses our music and plays for all of it. Thanks to our gifted and devoted Psalm C Singers: Beth Valenti, John Anthony, Gabriela Johnson, Fiorela Miria, Alexandra Woodruff, and Chris Cantu for sharing the gift of song with us each week online. Finally, thanks to Steve Johnson for serving as our liturgist! This is a great team — God has blessed us with each one of them! We couldn't be here without them. Please keep each in your prayers!!!

At our service and in your prayers this week please also remember:

- Kathy Bertolino
- Steve Johnson
- Victoria Gauzza
- Arleatha Williams
- Lashelle Bovian
- Lashette Benjamin
- For the health of our church family, our neighbors, our nation and the world
- Pray for the health and safety of all medical professionals, especially Dr. Donna McNamara, Dr. Kevin Frison, Dr. Jon Thorndike and his wife Dr. Terra Schaezel-Hill, and Dr. Mark C. Johnson; and for our Nurses: Mertella Munroe, Alexandra Woodruff and her husband Dymitri Shamkalovich, Carla Quinlan, Paula Snyder, Peg Cornell, Andie Strangi, Libby Black, Jill Felter, Claudia Wenger, and Marylou Prinzi-valli.
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- For those among us who are most at risk
- Noelle
- Uncle Artie Erickson
- Barbara Vassilatos and family
- Maggie - rough pregnancy
- Celeste (newborn)
- Teagan (newborn)
- Gaius Billy

- Tom, Elizabeth, and Amanda Trauth
- Patrick Vasi
- Richard Katt
- Keri Katt
- Sandra Griffin
- Kim Jedzenek
- Keyli Aguirre
- Healing within our nation and world
- Our church, its ministers and ministries
- Pastor Hoover and our brothers & sisters at the Tappan Reformed

Church

- For the ones for whom no one else is praying
- For those who have no faith
- For persecuted Christians
- For our brother and sister Christians everywhere
- For our enemies

Questions for Reflection

What changes might come into your life as a result of taking to heart and practicing the commands of Leviticus 19:15–18? Ponder this week what it might look like never to judge unjustly, not to defer to the rich or excuse the poor, not to gain from others' losses, neither to hate nor to avoid facing others' failings, to seek no revenge, and to hold no grudges.

Morning Prayer

This morning, as I rise, O God, I hear the sounds of your world awaking, and I give you thanks for another day. Bless your people this morning, at noon, in the afternoon, and in the evening with mercy and loving-kindness. Show us every hour the way to love each other. Help me to see in any conflicts how to grow in faith through the struggle for peace with my family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

As I lie down to sleep tonight, O God, I give you thanks for this day so full of surprises and joys. My muscles and bones are weary, and I long for renewal and quiet. Because you are the One in whom I have complete rest, I lean into your arms at this hour. Guard and keep your servant so that through the night, I may grow strong. Wake me in the morning with resolve to love my neighbors and to love myself, in Jesus' name. Amen.