



Raquette Lake Chapel

Raquette Lake, New York USA
www.raquettelakechapel.org

3Q2023 Pastoral Letter

Ecumenical Service at St. Williams on Long Point, September 9, 2023

On Saturday the Trustees of St. Williams invited the community to experience the beauty and sacred nature of St. William's at Long Point in Raquette Lake and to celebrate the wonders of God's creation.

Area clergy from Nicolls Memorial Presbyterian Church, Inlet Community Church, and Raquette Lake Chapel lead the service which was enriched by music performed by the Nicolls choir.

St. Williams is on the national register of historical places, and is boat-accessible only. So, it was a real treat to be able to participate!



Reverence for God's House

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. (Psalm 104:24)

Psalm 104, a hymn of praise that acknowledges God as the creator and preserver of all creation (God's House!), was the focal point of the ecumenical service on Saturday.

Personally, I have found the Adirondack Park to be a living example of the diversity and interconnectedness that Psalm 104 speaks of.

The Adirondacks consist of mountains, valleys, wetlands, streams, rivers, and lakes formed by God's hand through ancient glacial movements. This geology supports 53 species of mammals, 200 species of birds, 35 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 74 species of butterflies. Recently there have been numerous news stories about two stands of "ancient woods" which support white pine trees that are over 300 years old and well over 100 feet tall.

Given the abundance of living things in the Adirondacks, we cannot ignore how all the individual animals, plants, water sources, and mountains are interconnected.

Loons depends upon unpolluted water for food. Forests provide essential habitats for all kinds of birds. The mountains regulate local climates and bountiful water sources. The presence of abundant woodlands and wildlife are bell weathers of healthy ecosystems.

We, of course, are also God's creatures, also part of God's creation. And it is up to us to give thanks for creation, to respect it, and to care for it. We too live in God's house. Amen.

God's Peace! -Vance

Upcoming "Sunday Blasts"

Next week we will continue with reading through Jesus' "Final Discourse" as recorded in John chapters 14-17, and our reading will continue for two or three weeks beyond that.

My thanks to all of you for sharing your thoughts and suggestions about the Sunday Blasts! God's Peace be with you! - Vance