**Dr. Fernando Arzola Jr.**

**Remarks on the Occasion of the 175th Anniversary of First Reformed Church**

Psalm 100

**~**

2013 October 20

*The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Every journey begins with one step.

Today we celebrate a 175 years journey of a people of faith.

This journey is not to a far off religious destination, but it is a spiritual pilgrimage. A pilgrimage with Christ within our hearts, within this place, within this community.

I’m reminded of the story of Joshua and his men who walked around Jericho seven times a day for seven days, blew the trumpets and overtook the city.

The founders of this congregation were committed to a spiritual journey toward God as they walked, and lived, and died, around the village of Nyack.

From one generation to another, the people of faith on the corner of Broadway and Burd have passed forward this spiritual baton. And for a brief period of time, a very brief period, we hold this 175 year old baton.

We honor our past. But not just the last 175 years. We also honor the last 2000 years. For we continue a tradition left by Christ and the apostles. The First Reformed Church is not solely a landmark in the community, but it is the Body of Christ.

And while we honor the past, today is actually a celebration of the present. We are called today – as was the congregation in 1838 – to love God and to love this community. This is a tradition that we promise to continue through our Worship, through our spiritual formation and through our service.

My friends, the streets of heaven are filled with angels who walked through these doors. And we are committed to continue this holy work. The work of angels.

As I mention in our latest newsletter, I am reminded of the *Communion of Saints –* the spiritual union among the members of the Christian faith who are alive and dead. The members of First Reformed Church today are united in spirit with the inaugural members in loving God and loving others. They, in heaven, pray for us. And we not only stand on their shoulders, but on those of the Reformers, and on the shoulders of the Apostles in continuing to pray and work in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ In Nyack and throughout Rockland County, by word and action.

We are committed to be a safe place, a sacred space, of holistic ministry loving God and serving others.

*The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Amen.

**~ ~ ~**

This was delivered by Dr. Fernando Arzola Jr. at The First Reformed Church of Nyack, where he serves as pastor. Recognizing how difficult life can be and that many come to church asking deeper life questions, Pastor Fred’s invites the listener to consider the life and teachings of Christ in order to find strength, hope, and guidance for one’s spiritual journey. His sermons are always Christ-centered and Bible-based.

One of the warmest and most historically significant churches in Rockland County, The First Reformed Church is the oldest congregation in the Village of Nyack. Join us for worship Sundays at 10:30am.

If you would like to support this sermon ministry or contribute to First Reformed Church, please consider making a donation to:

The First Reformed Church of Nyack

Box 565

Nyack, NY 10960

Or donate online at [www.nyackreformed.org/giving](http://www.nyackreformed.org/giving)

We invite you to write us and share with us how these words inspired you.