

December 3, 2023  
Order of Service – 10:00 am

\* - Please rise in body or in spirit

## *Words of Welcome*

*The Community Reformed Church of Colonie welcomes you. We are a community bound together and energized by faith, love, and commitment to Jesus Christ. And even though you may not yet share that faith, love, and commitment, you are most welcome to be with us, to belong here, to experience what we're about. Then, if you are attracted and persuaded by what you see and hear, we hope you'll want to set down roots here long-term. And even if you don't, you'll always be a friend.  
Thank you for worshipping with us.*

## FOR CONTEMPLATION\*

“We can know that in the beginning there was God and not just some cosmic upheaval that brought light out of darkness only when we have experienced God doing the same thing in our lives, Our world – bringing light out of our darkness.”

Frederick Buechner

This is Communion Sunday. If you wish to receive gluten free bread, please inform the elder or the pastor before the Service begins)

**PRELUDE** “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**THE PRAYER QUILT** ~ This morning’s prayer quilt will be given to the  
Cornwell family.

**THE ELDER’S PRAYER** ~ Linda Murphy

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Members of the Worship Committee ~ Melody York and Lori Côté

How does a weary world hope?

***By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night,  
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.***

By praying for children as they grow and by picking up trash  
on the sidewalk.

***By insisting that small acts can make a difference.***

There are a million ways to practice hope.

So, today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

With God’s help, we may bring hope into a weary world.

***Amen.***

**INTROIT** “Change My Heart, O God”

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

In God’s house, we can be joyful.

***We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.***

In God’s house, we can be weary.

***We can be anxious. We can be grieving.***

In God’s house we can be honest,

***Inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or  
curious, and everything in between.***

This is God’s house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

***Let us worship our loving God.***

\* HYMN 133 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 133

*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Is. 7:14*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's  
 3. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
 4. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our  
 5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un -  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save and  
 ad - vent here; and drive a - way the shades of night, and  
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

*Refrain*

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 give them vic - tory o'er the grave.  
 pierce the clouds and bring us light! Re - joice! re - joice! Em -  
 close the path to mis - er - y.  
 all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn, 12th C.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; st. 5, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916  
 MUSIC: Thomas Helmore, 1854; based on plainsong phrases

VENI EMMANUEL  
 8.8.8.8.8.8.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

***Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we deserve a Sabbath rest.***

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

***Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet we can hear you.***

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

***Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.***

For weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope, we pray:

***Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.***

***Amen.***

### TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Verse 1)

***I Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.***

### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, “How can this be?”

God’s love keeps showing up for us.

So, say this with me:

***We are loved! We are claimed! We are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.***

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers, who knows the shape and form of our weariness. We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not just survival and existence. We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the world – a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements, and the Spirit. And so, we return to this space. We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin, and we trust that God is already at work. Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ~ Sarah Huiest**

**DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Marv Helf**

**ANTHEM “Advent Promise”**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Luke 1:1-23

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous,

to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

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

#### **THE MORNING MESSAGE: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?**

“We Acknowledge our Weariness”



## *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper* **Christmas Communion**

#### **THE CALL TO COMMUNION**

We have one Lord, one God, one Savior.

*The Holy Spirit makes Christ real to us, binding us in one, as we share him together.*

This is something we do eagerly.  
***Christ welcomes us here.***

This is something we do seriously.  
***For this is the moment of greatest intimacy when we take the symbols of the body and blood of the risen Lord.***

***I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the presence of the Lord."***

**\* A CHRISTMAS CONFSSION OF FAITH**

“What Child is This?” GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing,

whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?

***I believe that Jesus Christ - true God, son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary - is my Lord.***



This, this\_\_\_ is Christ the King,\_\_\_whom shep - herds guard\_ and an - gels sing;

haste, haste\_\_\_ to bring him laud,\_\_\_ the babe,\_\_\_ the son\_\_\_ of Ma - ry.

***At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.***

Why lies He in\_\_\_ such mean es - tate\_\_\_where ox and ass\_\_\_ are feed - ing? Good

Chris - tians, fear;\_\_\_ for sin - ners here\_\_\_ the si - lent Word\_ is plead - ing.

***Not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.***

Nails, spear\_ shall pierce him through, the cross be borne\_ for me, for you;

hail, hail\_ the Word made flesh, the babe, the son\_ of Ma - ry.

***All this He has done that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,***

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant, king, to own\_ him.

The King of kings\_ sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts\_ en - throne him.

*Just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.*



*This is most certainly true.*

## \* PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

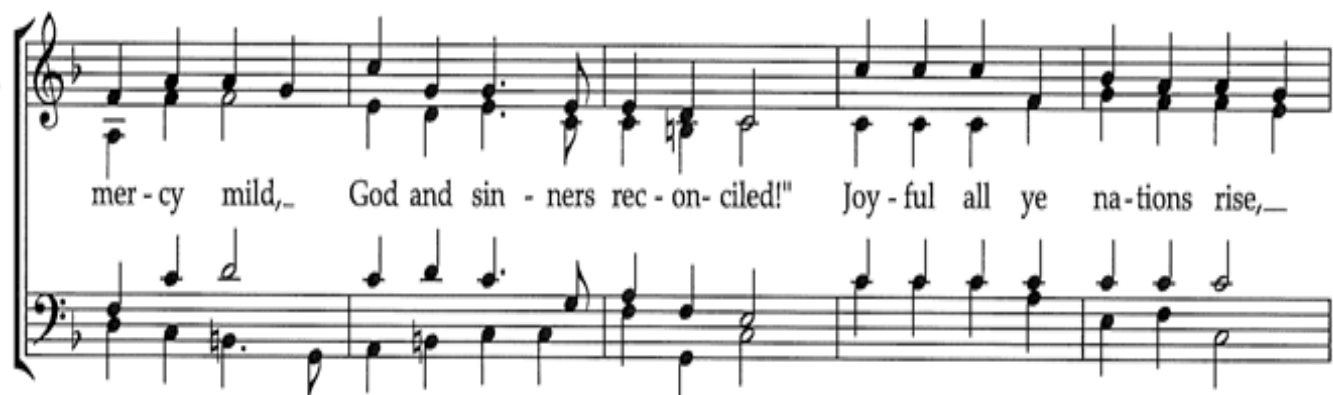
*It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

## THE PREFACE

\* A HYMN OF PRAISE "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"



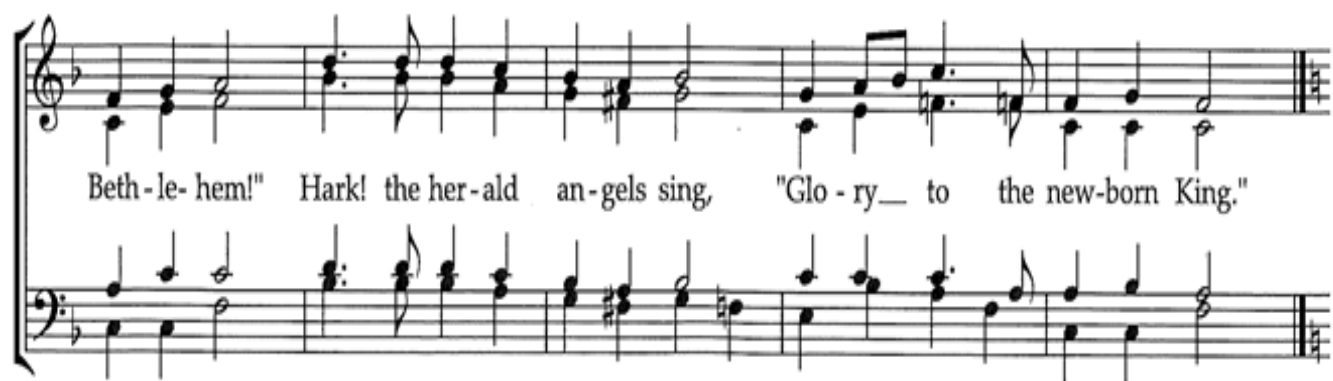
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, - "Glo - ry to the new-born King: peace on earth, and



mer - cy mild, - God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, -



join the tri - umph of the skies: - with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is - born in



Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry - to the new-born King."

## THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

The Holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope: we remember with joy the grace by which God created all things and made us in God's own image.

***We rejoice that God called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations.***

Yet we rebelled against God's will.

***In spite of the prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continued to break the covenant.***

In the fullness of time, God sent God's only Son to save us.

***Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the favored one, Mary, sharing our life, Christ reconciled us to God's love.***

At the Jordan, God's Spirit descended upon Him, anointing Him to preach the good news of God's reign.

***He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of God's compassion.***

He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of God's grace.

***We beheld His glory.***

On the night before He died for us, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with His disciples.

***After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by His followers and beaten.***

He stood trial and was put to death on a cross.

***Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, He was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.***

Through him God bestows the gift of the Spirit, uniting the church, empowering its mission and leading us into the new creation God has promised.

***By His death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body. We therefore receive this Supper in true and unconditional love.***

## THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### THE COMMUNION PRAYER

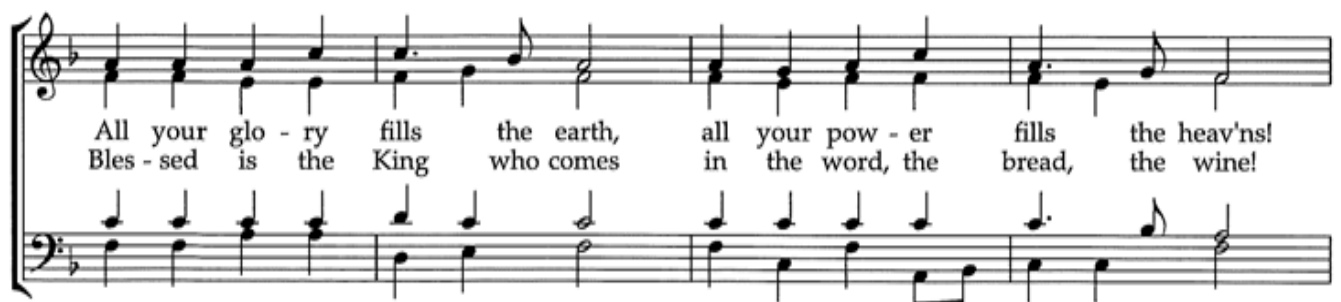
Let us pray.

***Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:***



### PREPARING OUR HEARTS “Angels We Have Heard On High”

### GLORIA



Glo - - - - - ri - a

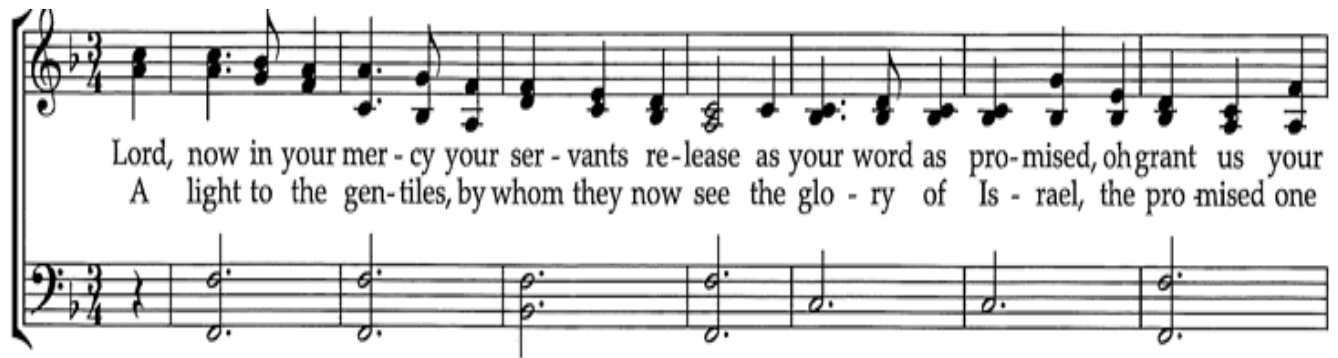
in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

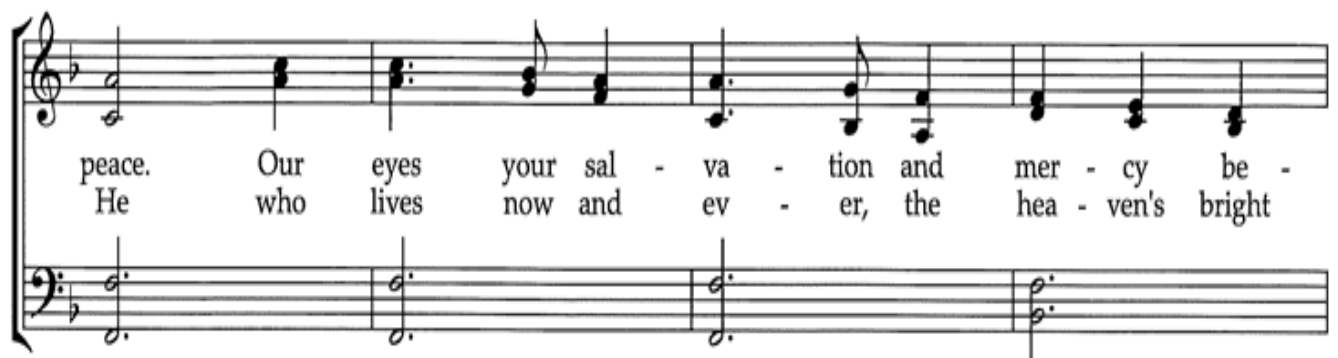
## COMMUNION



## THE PROMISE “Lord, Now in Your Mercy”



Lord, now in your mer - cy your ser - vants re - lease as your word as pro - mised, oh grant us your  
A light to the gen - tiles, by whom they now see the glo - ry of Is - rael, the pro mised one



peace. Our eyes your sal - va - tion and mer - cy be -  
He who lives now and ev - er, the hea - ven's bright



hold, pre - pared for the na - tions, as pro - phets fore - told.  
sun, with Fa - ther and Spi - rit e - ter - nal - ly one.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Since, dear God in this place at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, we have heard and we have seen the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*



## THE PARTING BLESSING

The Lord now bless and keep you all and make God's face to shine;

This musical system consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The treble staff contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Lift up God's face with shin - ing grace and grant you\_ peace div - ine.

This musical system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The treble staff features a rising melodic line, and the bass staff provides a steady harmonic support. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

To Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit, E - ter - nal three in one,

This musical system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a more active melody with some grace notes, and the bass staff continues with a solid harmonic foundation. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

all glo - ry be e - ter - nal - ly. A - men! So be it done.

This musical system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a concluding accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

**\* BENEDICTION**

## \* THE IRISH BLESSING

*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be ever at your back,  
May the sunshine warm upon your face,  
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again, and until we meet again,  
May the God who loves us all  
Hold you in the palm of His hand.*

### Worship Leaders

Worship Leader  
**Rev. Robert Hoffman**

Elder of the Day  
**Linda Murphy**

Deacon of the Day  
**Marv Helf**

Liturgist  
**Vicki Lane**

Children's Message  
**Sarah Huiest**

Director of Music  
Ministries  
**Ben April**

### Choir

**Tina-Marie Bottini  
Michelle Braungard  
Maggie George  
Kaaren Haushalter  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Pam Izzo  
Marissa Lombardo**

Sound Technician  
**Jerry Kallner**

Video Technician  
**Cameron Kaercher**

Welcome Host  
**Lou Ann Connelly**

Coffee Hour Host  
**Linda Murphy**

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Jon Paige  
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O God**  
Words & Music:  
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**This is the Threefold  
Truth**  
Words: Fred Pratt Green  
Music: Jack Schrader  
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**Angels We Have Heard  
on High**  
Richard E. Gerig  
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**The Irish Blessing**  
Words: Traditional  
Music: Benjamin April  
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**Website:**

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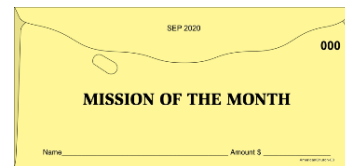
**Mailing Address:**

Community Reformed Church of Colonie  
701 Sand Creek Road  
Colonie, NY 12205

**Special Offering Envelopes –**

**The special offering envelopes for December**

You may make your offering to these with the envelope provided, mail in the offering to the Church office or through Paypal. If you have any questions, contact Lori Coté at [crccclori@gmail.com](mailto:crccclori@gmail.com).



**In-Person Worship Guidelines** - Even though you may be vaccinated, mask wearing continues to be encouraged to protect our vulnerable and medically compromised worshippers. We ask you to respect the distance and comfort levels of others. Reminder: If you are feeling under the weather, please remain home and participate in worship via Zoom

**ZOOM**

To join in Devotions, The Wired Word and Sunday Worship via Zoom, use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6880887155>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656

**Online Church Bulletin Board**

[padlet.com/crccsarah/ChurchBulletinBoard](http://padlet.com/crccsarah/ChurchBulletinBoard)

## COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE

### STAFF AND CONSISTORY

#### STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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**Cameron Kaercher**  
Technical Director  
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#### CONSISTORY Elders

Karl Coté  
Ana Crosbourn  
Linda Murphy  
Melody York

#### Deacons

Kevin Bottini  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Jessica Kaercher



#### Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell  
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Karen Latta  
[kmlatta@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kmlatta@nycap.rr.com)



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