

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



**Sunday,
September 24, 2023**

10:00 AM

Sanctuary Worship
Order of Service

* - 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

“Everything that Jesus did was according to the authority of God. So, too, everything we do should be under the authority not of majority opinion, national interest, or self-aggrandizement, but rather under the authority of God revealed in Jesus Christ, who as head of the Church calls us to be the Church. We have that calling – and, given the options of following the crowd or following our Savior, we all must answer the question:
By whose authority do I act and live?”

~ Rick Brand

PRELUDE “Agnus Dei”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Karl Côté

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “Holy Ground”

CALL TO WORSHIP

How we underestimate your compassion, Jesus;
we are too easily convinced that you frown more than you smile,
***that our weakness and ignorance,
our mistakes and sins,
guarantee nothing but judgement from you.***

Yet, time and again you show us that this picture is unworthy of you;
after all, you said it – you didn’t come to judge but to save!

***And so, we thank you and celebrate you:
Your compassion is limitless, and your love is unfailing;
Your welcome is gracious and extravagant and all-inclusive;
Your embrace is healing and transforming;
And your commitment to us is costly and eternal.***

Perhaps we will never really understand how you can be so
totally for us, but perhaps, as we learn to trust,
and to lean into your love,
we will find the peace and wholeness that you desire for us.

***And so, we come, we worship, and we open ourselves
to your surprising compassion again. Amen.***



*HYMN 593 "The Gift of Love"

The Gift of Love 593

... But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its

gift to all in - spire, and have not love:
 so my love pro - fess, but not be given
 long to be made whole. Let in - ward love

my words are vain; as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 by love with - in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 guide ev - ery deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal Hopson, 1972; para. of 1 Corinthians 13
 MUSIC: Hal Hopson, 1971; based on Traditional English melody
 © 1972 Hope Publishing Company

GIFT OF LOVE
 L.M.

THE RESPONSIVE READING

Can it be that easy, Jesus?

Can it be that hard?

That what You want for us is just to love

and be loved?

Is it possible that even those who have tried the hardest,
signed on the dotted line,

sat for years in classes

and strained their eyes from reading,

dressed in all the most appropriate garments,

and spoken with only the most measured words...

that these can miss You?

How can it be when those who have hardly tried at all,
who have damaged themselves and others so much,

that in the end they have nowhere else to turn

but to throw themselves on Your grace...

that these are the ones You search out?

How do we make sense of this, Jesus?

How do we love so scandalously, so inclusively?

How do we allow ourselves to be loved enough,

that all our hard and sharp edges

grow soft and round?

Help us to find the humility and courage,

the boldness and grace,

that in our loving and being loved,

we may somehow ignite our world with a compassion so fierce

that violence and abuse,

rejection and condemnation,

neglect and greed

become unthinkable. Amen.

✱MEDITATION "Blessing and Praise"

Blessing and praise be given,

Blessing and praise be given

To Christ who comes, who comes for us,

Comes in the name of the Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How quick we are to say yes to you, O Lord, and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment. We really want to serve, but we are very weak and are easily drawn away by cares and fears. We pledge ourselves to working for your kingdom but find ourselves pulled this way and that by other demands on our time and energy. Forgive us, O Lord, when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving you. Heal our spirits and give us the bold courage to truly be your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Shepherd Me, O God"

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Lisa McGee

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Jessica Kaercher

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.*

ANTHEM "Walk By Faith"

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the

marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So, they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

MORNING MESSAGE "The Gift of Grace"



*HYMN 381 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

381 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Mt. 13:39

1. Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2. All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield,
 3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home,
 4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har - vest home,

All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - rows grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
 gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our ma - ker, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear,
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your pres - ence to a - bide.

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all your an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

WORDS: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1858

ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR
 7.7.7.7.D.

*BENEDICTION

*THE IRISH BLESSING

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back,
May the sun shine 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 TEAM

Worship Leader
Sarah Huiest

Elder
Karl Coté

Deacon
Jessica Kaercher

Liturgist
Lisa McGee

Sound Technician
Mike York

Video Technician
Addison York

Music Director
Ben April

Soloist
Brian Rhode

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

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

Coffee Hour Host
Debi Todd

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Agnus Dei

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Holy Ground

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Blessings and Praise

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Lord Jesus Christ

Contributors: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.
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Walk By Faith

Music: Jeremy Camp
© 2002 Stolen Pride Music
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In Person Worship Guidelines

Reminder:

If you are feeling under the weather,
please remain home and participate in worship via Zoom

ZOOM

Sunday Worship via Zoom, use the link below:

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

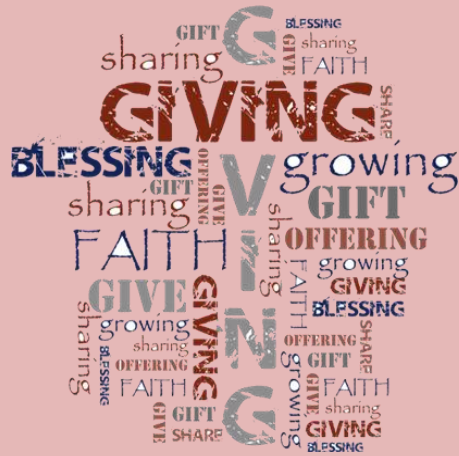
Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656

Online Church Bulletin Board

padlet.com/crccsarah/ChurchBulletinBoard

Offerings and gifts to the church may be submitted online via PayPal (link found below or on our website), by mailed check, by direct bank payment or by placing them in the offering box located near the exit.



PayPal:

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Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

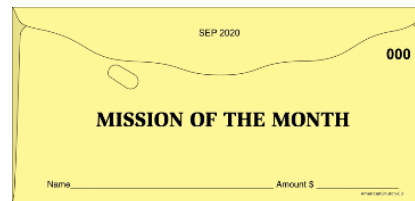
Mailing Address:

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

Special Offering Envelopes –

The special offering envelopes for September.

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.



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell

crccsandy@gmail.com

Karen Latta

kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

**COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE
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