



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

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

“Blessed are you in this terrible, wonderful now . . . Blessed are you for whom prayer feels hopeless, disappointing, futile. Blessed are you in your radical honesty, in the ways you speak of your grief . . . Blessed are you as you learn to trust, trust a God who hears, who listens, who hasn't left your side, who prays on your behalf, interpreting those deep groans you can't quite put into syllables or sounds. Blessed are you, as you settle into acceptance. And blessed are we who live here in the someday, but not now.”

~ Kate Bowler

PRELUDE “Most Beautiful”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Linda Murphy

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE –

Mark Kaercher

As we continue our journey through the Advent season,
we pray for a new vision of Divine Prestige,
in our universe,
in our society,
in our relationships,
and in us;
and we pray that we may have
the humility and generosity
to participate in sharing the joy that comes
when we abandon games of power and status.

*And so, as we light the Candle of Joy
as we invite laughter and play into our world and lives,
and as we enjoy the dance of the flame,
we give thanks for your Divine Vision of Prestige
that liberates us from bondage to status
and leads us into the freedom of your reign.*

Amen.

INTROIT “Change My Heart, O God”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Into our world filled with both opportunity and disappointment,
filled with both longing and despair,
filled with both wealth and poverty,
filled with both laughter and weeping,
God comes.

Divine values have always shaped creation;
***they shape our lives now,
and they will always shape the Cosmos
which God values infinitely.***

And so we celebrate again the Advent of our Divine Parent,
our Divine Servant,
our Divine Helper,
and we celebrate the upside-down Divine perspective
on prestige, status, and hierarchy,
that is always being revealed,
around us,
among us,
and within us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

* HYMN 138 "Savior of the Nations Come"

*Savior of the nations, come,
Show yourself, the virgin's son.
Fill with wonder, all the earth,
That our God chose such a birth.*

*Not by human power or seed
Did the woman's womb conceive;
Only by the Spirit's breath
Was the Word of God made flesh.*

*Christ laid down his majesty,
Passed thro' dark Gethsemane.
Though he left his Father's home,
Christ now sits on God's own throne.*

*Christ in glory intercede
For your creatures' suffering need;
Let your resurrecting power
Soon complete the victory hour.*

*Praise to you, O Lord, we sing.
Praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one,
Let your lasting kingdom come.*

*RESPONSIVE READING

God, our society has idolized some people
to the point where we want to be just like them.
The standards they are expected to live up to
are unreasonable,
and their lives are constantly on show.
May we look through the labels and fame
to see the person hiding inside.
May we choose to find their humanity
and extend compassion to them in their pain.

Society tells us to find joy
in the next new toy,
the next expensive outfit,
the newest technology.
But we remember the childlike joy we found
in butterflies fluttering
or raindrops and puddles.
We remember the little, simple things
that reminded us of the goodness,
truth and beauty
that are freely available to us.

Jesus, you lived a compassionate life,
noticing those who were ignored,
inviting those who were excluded,
calling those who were forgotten.

May we notice those who are so easily passed by,
and extend your compassion to them.
May each who feels ignored, excluded and forgotten
know that you see them and love them.

You have shown us that you see us and love us,
reminding us that we are valued.
We choose to remember this affirmation
when things feel grey and lonely.

May we draw strength from you, God
*to become expressions of your love and welcome
to those who may be feeling grey and lonely too.*
Amen.

***TAIZÉ MEDITATION 152 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (2 times)**

*“Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

We gather as ordinary people;
*the recognized and unrecognizable,
the influential and powerless,
but all people of God.*

We don't need prestige or importance
to come to you, God.

We come as we are,
*embracing this moment of community,
celebrating being together as your children.*

The world has convinced us
*that we need status and money
in order to survive or thrive.*

These ambitions have clouded our vision
of your just and love-filled world.
*Instead of looking after each other
we have become self-consumed.*
Forgive us.

Every created and living thing
is important to you.

You are visible in everything around us,
if we only pay attention.

We recognize your image in those around us,
and we are grateful for the diversity we see.

We feel your life flowing through rivers,
*dancing in trees,
singing in birds.*

Sometimes our quest for more
has led us to exploit Earth and her resources.
We act as if we own the Earth,
instead of being her dependents.
We have not seen the beauty
and the greatness of the earth.
We have not listened to her cries.

We open ourselves to an awareness
of the life and sacredness
within us,
among us
and around us.

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION 135 "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 - John 3:16-17

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Jerry Kallner

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Marv Helf

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 "Tabernacle"

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

THE MORNING MESSAGE "A Glimpse of God's Heart"

*HYMN 130 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.*

*2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.*

*3 He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.*

*4 He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.*

*5 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.*

***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.
Amen.*

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Soloist Brian Rhode			

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.

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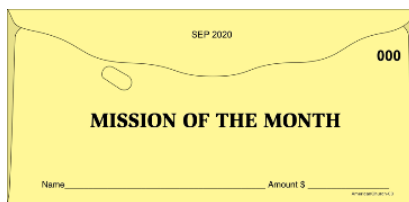
Mailing Address:

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

Special Offering Envelopes –

There are three 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 crcclori@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 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



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell

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Karen Latta

kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

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