



The Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2024
Worship – 10:00 AM

Words of Welcome

"It is the mission of the Community Reformed Church of Colonie to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all of our minds; and to love our neighbors as ourselves." (Matthew 22:37-40)

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.

The Community Reformed Church of Colonie welcomes you
and thanks you for worshipping with us.

Please join in the worship liturgy by reading the sections in ***bold italics***.

* - Please rise in body or in spirit

FOR CONTEMPLATION

“Advent reminds us that Christ came into a world fraught with the very same issues of injustice and inequity that we face, and he did not turn away. Instead, he showed us a way forward: engaged action rooted in compassion.”

(Kayla Craig)

PRELUDE “Wonders of His Love”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Ana Crosbourn

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Members of the Women's Bible Study: Ana Crosbourn, Doris Neese

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?
***Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us.
Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!***

Yes, let us begin with joy.
***Today we light the candles of hope, peace and joy. May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action.
May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.***

May it be so. Amen.

INTROIT “I Love You Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Teacher,” the crowd asked, “what should we do?”
***If you have two shirts, give one away. Hold onto hope.
Live like we belong to one another. Speak the truth. Look to God.
Do the good that is yours to do.***

It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.
Let us worship our present and active God.

* HYMN 140 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" (Sing 2 times)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel 140

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel." Mt. 1:23

Unison

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is

called Em-man - u - el. God with us,

re-vealed in us, his name is called Em-man - u - el.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bob McGee, 1976
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EMMANUEL
8.8.7.8.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?"
Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say, "Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world. Instead, hold fast to hope. Roll up your sleeves. Feed the hungry. Tend the garden. If you have two coats, give one away. Do the good that is yours to do. In doing so, you will see God. For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference."

Amen and Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Lord, Be Glorified"

*In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.*

*In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.*

*In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.*

*In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liberating God, there are days when the world can feel like it is crumbling apart. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.

I ask myself,

"What could these two hands do?"

"What could this once voice say?"

Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

Amen.

TAIZE RESPONSE - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Verse 1)

*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 FORGIVENESS

Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name and surrounds us in grace and invites us to begin again.

Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do.

Thanks be to God for this new beginning.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Sarah Huie

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Kevin Ingalls

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 "Joy To The World"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 3:3-17

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

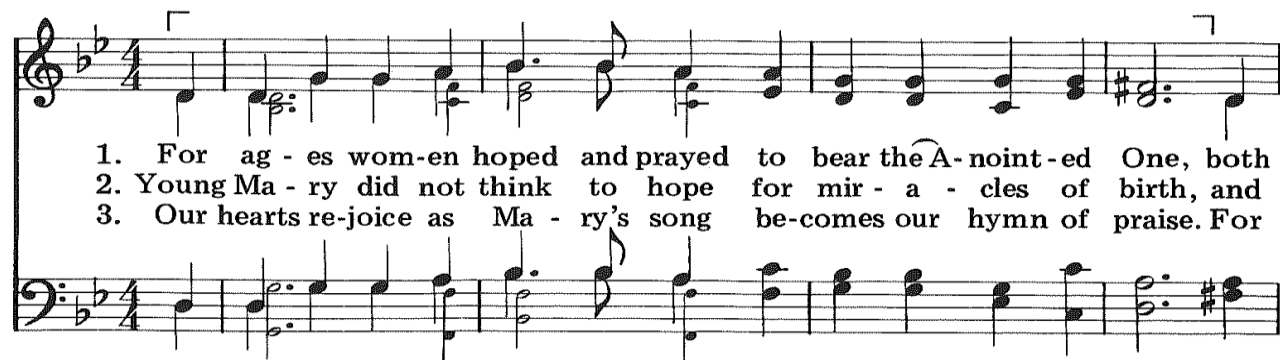
This is the Word of The Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

THE MORNING MESSAGE - "Do the Good That is Yours to Do"

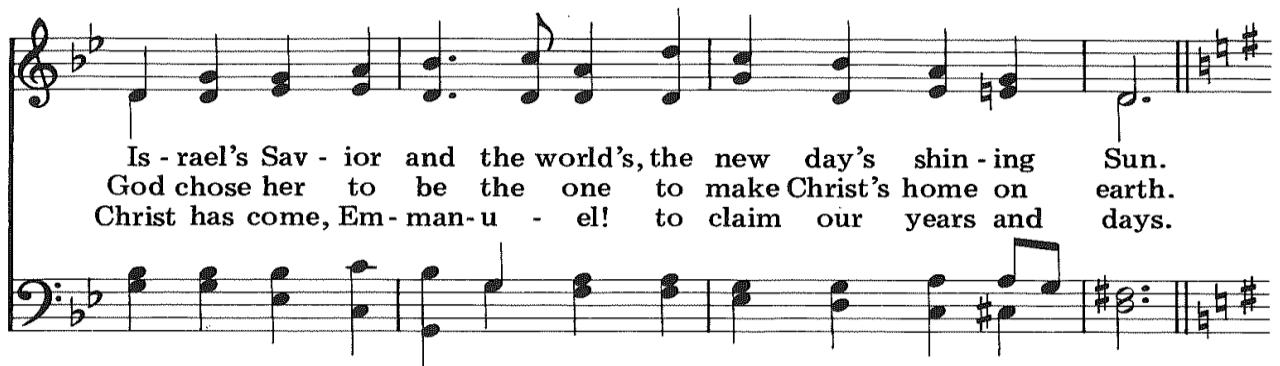
HYMN 143 "For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed"

143 For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed

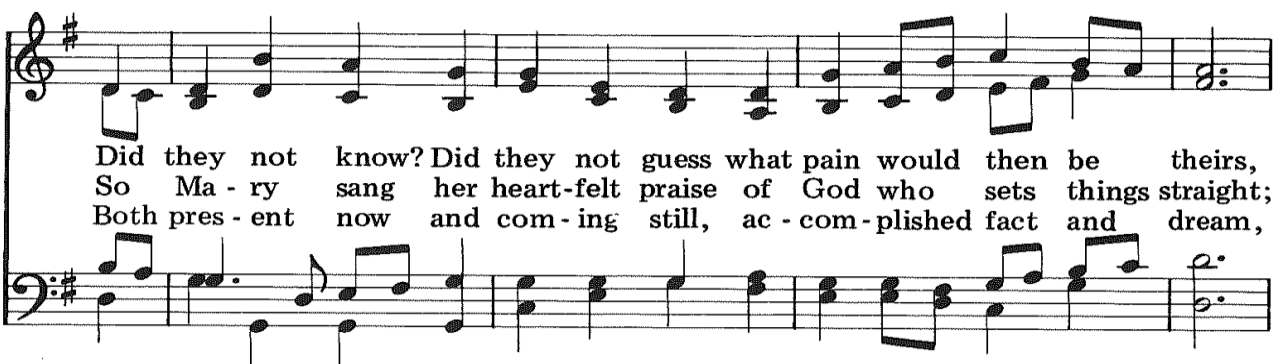
"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Lk. 1:28



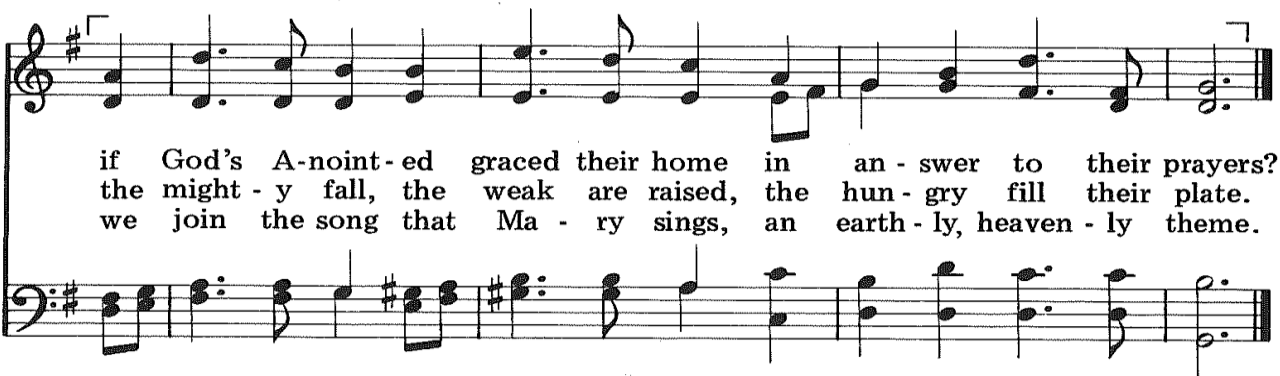
1. For ag - es wom-en hoped and prayed to bear the A-noint-ed One, both
2. Young Ma - ry did not think to hope for mir - a - cles of birth, and
3. Our hearts re-joice as Ma - ry's song be-comes our hymn of praise. For



Is - rael's Sav - ior and the world's, the new day's shin - ing Sun.
God chose her to be the one to make Christ's home on earth.
Christ has come, Em - man - u - el! to claim our years and days.



Did they not know? Did they not guess what pain would then be theirs,
So Ma - ry sang her heart-felt praise of God who sets things straight;
Both pres - ent now and com - ing still, ac - com - plished fact and dream,



if God's A-noint-ed graced their home in an - swer to their prayers?
the might - y fall, the weak are raised, the hun - gry fill their plate.
we join the song that Ma - ry sings, an earth - ly, heaven - ly theme.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1986
MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1868
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VOX DILECTI
C.M.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.
Amen.*

POSTLUDE “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

All of the liturgical resources for our Advent and Christmas worship theme, “Words for the Beginning” are used with permission from “A Sanctified Art LLC” and have been adapted from those prepared by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

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Brian Rhode

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Ingalls

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Mike York

Liturgist
Karl Côté

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Children’s Message
Sarah Huiest

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

Coffee Hour Host
Lori Côté

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Lord, Be Glorified

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Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

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For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed

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The Irish Blessing

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O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

(Fantasy on "Kingsfold")
Music: Traditional, arr. John Carter
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The Good That Is Yours
by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Luke 3:7-16



Ink dyes and gold resist on silk, with digital collage As John the Baptist preaches about transformation, he receives the same question three times from those gathered by the river: “What, then, shall we do?”

His responses are straightforward and practical, but also particular. He tells the crowd to share any excess clothing and food with those who have none. He tells the tax collectors not to use their position of power to launder and steal money. He tells the soldiers not to coerce and threaten, and to be satisfied with their wages.

In other words, he tells them what not to do, which leads me to assume that those showing up to be baptized are carrying some things they need to atone for. And yet, they have shown up. They have journeyed into the wilderness to be baptized and transformed. They long for a new beginning.

At the center of this quilt square collage, a pinwheel of fire spins. It represents the Holy Spirit impelling the world to turn. Surrounding it are four petal shapes that bloom like a flower. They are each filled with branches of fruit. When we align ourselves with the movement of the Spirit, we can do the good that is ours to do. Our actions can bear good fruit.

The petals and pinwheel are encapsulated by the outline of a blue cross. Four walls of the cross contain broken fragments. In stark contrast to the lush fruit, the fragments are like shards of glass. They symbolize the sins John the Baptist sees present amongst the crowds: extortion, coercion, and the hoarding of power and resources. And yet, these fragments are linked together by blue arrows filled with the waters of baptism. There is a way to begin again.

From each cardinal direction, a triangle of Holy Spirit fire faces inward, pointing us to baptism and transformation. When we do the good that is ours to do, we bear good fruit—fruit that repairs and nourishes, fruit that grows into the four corners of the earth. —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

ZOOM

To join Sunday Worship via Zoom, use the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/CRCCZoom>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656

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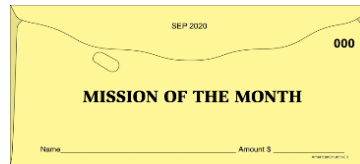
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

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Colonie, NY 12205

December Offering Envelopes –



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

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and

Karen Latta

kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

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