

The First Sunday After Christmas

December 26, 2021

Order of Worship
10:00 am.

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*

“‘Business!’ cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. ‘Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!’”

~ The Ghost of Jacob Marley
From Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*

PRELUDE 162 “The First Noel”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

**Welcome
Announcements**

THE ELDER'S PRAYER ~ Ana Crosbourne

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Miraculous God,
We know this story so well.
All the characters are familiar.
All the words are known by heart.
All the songs have been sung so many times.
We love this story and its comfortable, comforting
familiarity.

***We praise You for the miracles which come to us in
the familiar.***

At the center of this story is the eternal God stepping into
human history.
The All-Powerful One choosing to live in fragile flesh.
The Creator becoming a creature.

***We praise You for the miracle of God becoming
human.***

At the center of this story is a God Who reveals Godself to
men and women.
A God Who works miracles through ordinary people who
say, "Yes" to God.
A God Who enters every willing soul to birth new life.

***We praise You for the miracle of Your life within
us.***

***Miraculous God,
May we see You, know You and be united with You
again this Christmastime.
May our lives be changed by Your miraculous love,***

*and may we become part of Your miraculous salvation.
Now and always.
Amen.*

THE DEACON'S PRAYER ~ Kevin Bottini

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.

Bethlehem Speaks

By Rochelle Pennington

Mary - Deandra Macomber

Joseph - Kevin Bottini

The Innkeeper's Wife - Tina Bottini

The Angel - Michele Braungard

The Shepard - David Braungard

The Magi - Michael Macomber

HYMN 150 "What Child is This?" (vv. 1 & 2)

*1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

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***2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borned for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.***

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 37-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

MARY'S REFLECTION

HYMN 146 "Joy to the World" (vv. 1 & 2)

*1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

JOSEPH'S REFLECTION

HYMN 155 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (ST. LOUIS, vv. 1 & 2)

***1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.***

***2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.***

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:1, 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

THE INNKEEPER'S WIFE'S REFLECTION

HYMN 174 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (1 & 5)

***1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.***

***5 Though an infant now we view him
he will share his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.***

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

THE ANGEL'S REFLECTION

HYMN 151 "Go Tell it on the Mountain" (vv. 1 & 2)

Refrain:

***Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.***

***1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light***

[Refrain]

***2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.***

[Refrain]

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:15-18

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

THE SHEPHERD'S REFLECTION

HYMN 185 "We Three Kings" (vv. 1 & 2)

*1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign.*

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

THE MAGI'S REFLECTION

HYMN 156 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" (vv. 1, 2, & 3)

***1 Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger:
Such a Babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of every race who have found his favor.***

***2 Angels sang about his birth; Magi sought and found
him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels
singing;
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were
ringing.***

***3 Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger:
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!***

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.***

Minister of Word and Sacrament
Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell

Director of Music Ministries
Benjamin April

Soloist
Marv Helf

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

Elder of the Day
Ana Crosbourne

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Lori Cote

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“The First Noel”

Words: Traditional English Carol
Music: W. Sandys’ Christmas Carols, 1833
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 162
Public Domain

“What Child is This?”

Words: William C. Dix, 1865
Music: Traditional English melody, 16th C.
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 150
Public Domain

“Joy to the World”

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719
Music: Lowell Mason, 1848
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 146
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“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868
Music: H. Redner 1868
The Worshipping Church Hymn

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Words: John W. Work, 19047
Music: Afro-American Spiritual.
Arr. Donald P. Hustad, 1989
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The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 151
Public Domain

“We Three Kings”

Words & Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 185
Public Domain

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Words: Joseph S. Cook, 1919
Music: Pine Cantiones, 1582,
Arr. Ernest Macmillan, 1930
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 156
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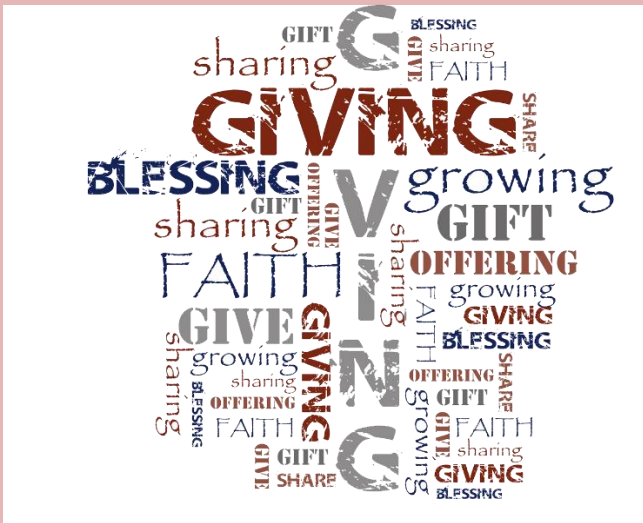
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“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
Words: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825
Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 174
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The Irish Blessing
Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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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

GENERAL NOTICES

Today, Sunday School for children in grades 3-6 meets in the Gathering Room from 9:00 to 9:45 am.

Gathering Zoom

The Gathering Zoom devotions will not be taking place on December 23 – January 6th. They will be resume on January 11th.

Sunday School Teacher - We are in need of a Sunday school teacher for children in grades 3-6. There is a curriculum for you to follow. If interested, please speak to Sarah Huiest (crccsarah@gmail.com).

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Aid for Tornado Relief – We will be collecting donations to send to Direct Relief. Direct Relief supports nonprofit health centers and charitable clinics in the affected area on an ongoing basis. They are mobilizing relief for tornado-damaged communities and are coordinating assistance for communities in multiple states affected by the deadly storms. You may donate with a check payable to CRCC with "Direct Relief" in the memo, envelope provided in your bulletin, or you may mail a check to the Church. To donate directly via this link:

https://secure.directrelief.org/site/Donation2?df_id=2924&mfc_pref=T&2924.donation=form1

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

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE

STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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Karl Coté
Ana Crosbourne
Marissa Lombardo
Linda Murphy

Deacons

Kevin Bottini
Ellen Buono
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell
crccsandy@gmail.com
Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday - Psalm 72:1-7
Tuesday - Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Wednesday - Psalm 72:10-14
Thursday - Ephesians 3:1-6
Friday - Ephesians 3:7-12
Saturday - Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday - Epiphany of the Lord

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, as you listened to your teachers,
may I also, this day, listen to others with care and grace,
and receive whatever wisdom they may offer. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God,
you know every struggle I have faced this day:
let me sleep in peace,
confident in your great love in Jesus Christ. Amen.



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