

December 10, 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

“It is the basic principle of spiritual life that we learn  
the deepest things in unknown territory.

Often it is when we feel most confused inwardly and are in the midst  
of our greatest difficulties that something new will open.

We awaken most easily to the mystery of life through our weakest side.

The areas of our greatest strength,  
where we are the most competent and clearest,  
tend to keep us away from the mystery.”

Jack Kornfield

**PRELUDE** “Emmanuel, God with Us”

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

**THE PRAYER QUILT** - This morning's prayer quilt will be given to Gayle Bottini.

**THE ELDER'S PRAYER** – Karl Coté

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Members of the Property Committee  
Kevin Ingalls and Mike York

How does a weary world practice peace?

**By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.**

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

**By choosing grace over hatred and opening the door for each other.**

There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

**With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.**

**INTROIT** "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to worship.

***Welcome to worship.***

I am glad you are here.

***I am glad you are here.***

Surely God is in this space.

***Surely God is in this space.***

I see God in your face.

***I see God in your face.***

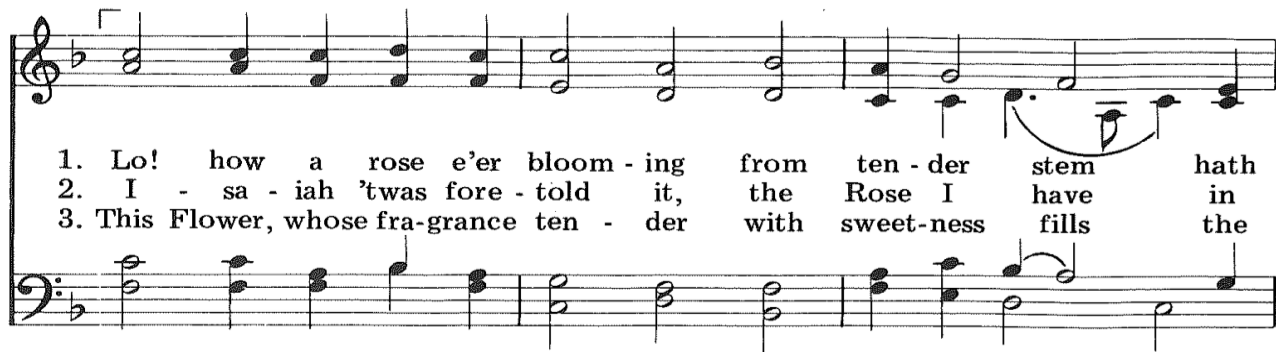
Let us worship together.

***Let us worship together.***

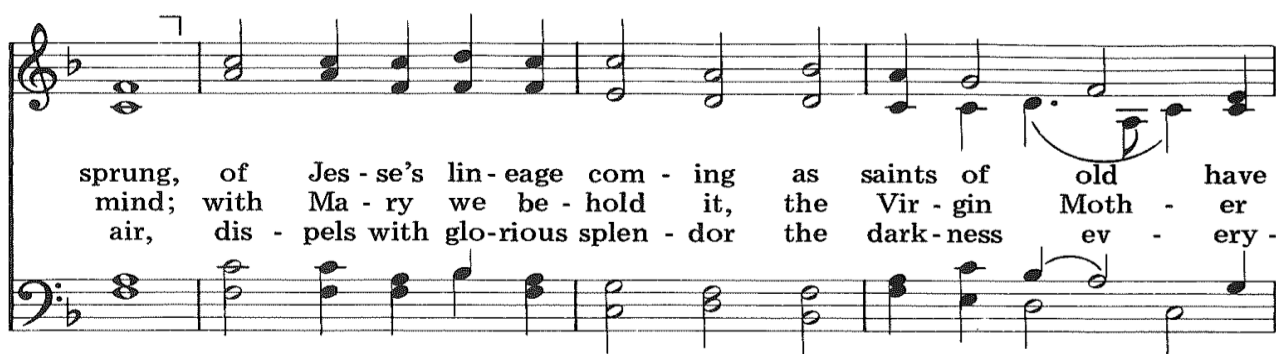
\* HYMN 163 "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

# 163 Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

*I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. S. of S. 2:1*




1. Lo! how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in  
 3. This Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the



sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have  
 mind; with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery -



sung. It came, a flow - eret bright, a - mid the cold of  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, she bore to us a  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he



win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.  
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

WORDS: German carol, 16th C.; sts. 1,2, tr. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.;  
 st. 3, tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1875

MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN  
 Irregular

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THE DAY

As our world grows colder, the days grow shorter,  
and the nights grow longer,

***We fill this sanctuary with evergreens that endure through  
the winter.***

We fill this sanctuary with bright colors, with joyful ornaments,  
with symbols of life and hope, and with songs of celebration.

***Thank you, God of Life, for these reminders that the  
darkness cannot extinguish the light,  
and that death cannot extinguish life.***

We praise and thank you, O God, that your light shines

***Even in the bleakest and most lifeless situations,***

And that you bring us hope,

***Even in the face of the greatest despair.***

Open our eyes to recognize that you are always

***Coming to us again;***

You are always with us

***And never leave us;***

And that you will always remain with us

***No matter what may lie ahead.***

***Thanks be to God!***

***Amen.***

## TAIZÉ MEDITATION “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” (3 times)

***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful***

***In the Lord I will rejoice.***

***Look to God, do not be afraid.***

***Lift up your voices the Lord is near,***

***Lift up your voices the Lord is near.***

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions,  
we confess that we often doubt good news.

***We move through this world waiting for the other shoe  
to drop, waiting for life to fall apart,  
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.***

Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

***We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.***

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

***Heal the wounds we have from past hurts and teach us how  
to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find  
joy in connection. Amen.***

## TAIZÉ MEDITATION “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 GOD’S FORGIVENESS

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

***We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper  
than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God.  
We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be  
shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope. And when  
joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being  
sacred community is leaning on one another. So together we say:  
I will share my joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy  
when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.***

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Vicki Lane

## DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – 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.*

## ANTHEM “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is

with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

#### Luke 1:24-45

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then 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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

**THE MORNING MESSAGE: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?**  
"We Find Joy in Connection"

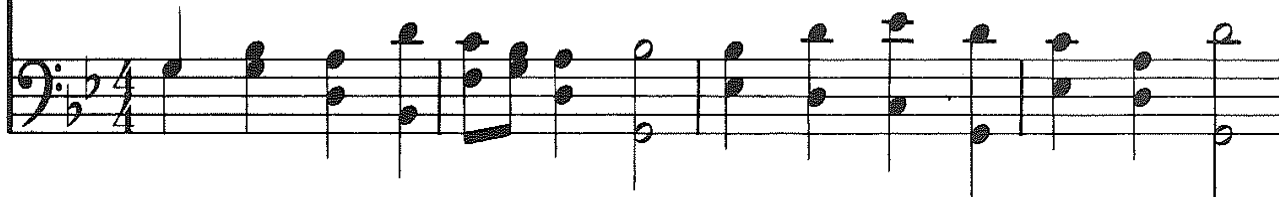
**\*HYMN 138 "Savior of the Nations, Come"**

# Savior of the Nations, Come 138

*. . . that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. Ps. 67:2*



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, show your - self the Vir - gin's son.
2. Not by hu - man power or seed did the wom - an's womb con - ceive;
3. Christ laid down his maj - es - ty, passed thro' dark Geth - sem - a - ne;
4. Christ in glo - ry, in - ter - cede for your crea - tures' suf - fering need;
5. Praise to you, O Lord, we sing; praise to Christ, our new - born King!



Fill with won - der, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.  
on - ly by the Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.  
though he left his Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.  
let your res - ur - rect - ing power soon com - plete the vic - tory hour.  
With the Fa - ther, Spir - it, one, let your last - ing king - dom come.



WORDS: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th C.; German version, Martin Luther, 1523;  
tr. Calvin Seerveld, 1984

MUSIC: *Enchiridia*, Erfurt, 1524; harm. Seth Calvisius, 1594

Words © Calvin Seerveld

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND  
7.7.7.7.



## 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.*

All the Liturgical resources for our Advent Worship Theme, “How Does a Weary Rejoice?” are used with permission from “A Sanctified Art LLC” and have been prepared by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

### WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Leader <b>Lynne Gilgore</b>	Soloist <b>Marv Helf</b>
Elder of the Day <b>Karl Coté</b>	Choir <b>Tina-Marie Bottini</b> <b>Michelle Braungard</b> <b>Maggie George</b> <b>Kaaren Haushalter</b> <b>Marvin Helf</b> <b>Kevin Ingalls</b> <b>Pam Izzo</b> <b>Marissa Lombardo</b>
Deacon of the Day <b>Kevin Bottini</b>	
Liturgist <b>Lou Ann Connelly</b>	
Sound Technician <b>Jerry Kallner</b>	Welcome Host <b>Debbie Helf</b>
Video Technician <b>Cameron Kaercher</b>	Coffee Hour Host <b>Lori Coté</b>

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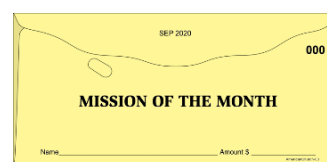
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Colonie, NY 12205

## **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 [crcclori@gmail.com](mailto: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

## **Online Church Bulletin Board**

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



## **Prayer E-Chain**

**Please email prayer requests to:**

Sandy Cornwell

[crccsandy@gmail.com](mailto:crccsandy@gmail.com)

Karen Latta

[kmlatta@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kmlatta@nycap.rr.com)

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