

*The Seventh  
Sunday of  
Easter  
May 12, 2024*



*The Story of Lydia*

**Order of Service – 10:00 am**

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

\* - Please rise in body or in spirit

*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.

## CONTEMPLATION

Hospitality is a beautiful concept that transcends mere politeness or offering a place to stay. It's about creating an open-hearted space where people feel welcomed, valued, and loved.

**PRELUDE** “Salt and Light”

**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**WITNESSING STEWARD** – Doris Neese

**THE ELDER’S PRAYER** – Karl Coté

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**INTROIT** “Make Me a Servant”

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The image you have shaped within us,  
*mysteriously,*  
*incredibly,*  
*a reflection of your own Being,*

Is best seen in the multiple refractions,  
of our variegated humanity;  
in the prismatic kaleidoscopes,  
*of our shared life,*  
*our interconnectedness,*  
*our being with each other.*

We seek you, God, we long for you  
*and, thankfully, you are not far off*  
*not hidden;*

We need only remember  
that you are most easily found  
when we find you together,  
*and when we are humble enough to look*  
*even in the faces we find most strange and unfamiliar.*

\* HYMN 77 "Praise to the Lord the Almighty"

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a -  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend  
 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -  
 eth, shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gen-tly sus -  
 thee, sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at -  
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be -

va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 tend thee. Pon-der a-new what the Al -  
 fore him! Let the A-men sound from his

tem-ple draw near; join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?  
 might-y can do, if with his love he be-friend thee.  
 peo-ple a-gain: glad-ly for-ev-er a-dore him.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, Stralsund, 1665

LOBE DEN HERREN  
 14.14.4.7.8.

## RESPONSIVE READING

It's a tough thing for us to learn, Jesus,  
how you hide in the most unlikely places;  
*how you beckon us into life and compassion  
by disguising yourself in broken humanity.*

But, when our eyes are opened,  
*we discover that we are never far from your heart,  
from your kingdom.*

And so we ask you to show yourself to us again,  
*and lead us into prayerful action;*

Help us to share your grief when lives are needlessly lost  
*simply because they have no money for food or shelter,  
because they have no access to medicine and care,  
because they have no choice but to live  
where war and violence constantly threaten;*

Help us to feel your offense when the least are exploited  
*by the lust of those who are physically stronger,  
by the greed of those who are financially richer,  
by the disregard of those who are politically more powerful.*

Help us to know your pain when what you have created is destroyed  
*by the carelessness of expediency,  
by the short-sightedness of progress at all costs,  
by the sense of entitlement of proud humanity.*

Teach us to welcome you, Jesus,  
*by welcoming those in whom your image is hidden,*  
and by working, in our small worlds,  
*to make visible your kingdom where all are welcomed. Amen.*

## TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Sing Praise and Bless the Lord"

*Sing, praise and bless the Lord.  
Sing, praise and bless the Lord.  
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How many ways You have cared for us, O God;  
How many companions You have given  
to share our difficult and joyous journey.

***And yet we forget Your care,  
and reject Your messengers.***

Forgive us for failing to recognize You  
***in those who are different from ourselves.***

Forgive us for rejecting other people –  
***children of Yours who are equally loved.***

Forgive us for believing the lie  
***that says we can do it our way, and we can do it alone.***

Teach us to love as You have loved us,  
***to embrace and welcome others  
as You have welcomed us,***  
to enjoy and commit to the family  
***which You have given for our comfort and nurture.***

In Jesus Name.

### TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Shepherd Me, O God” (3 times)

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

### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Mark Kaercher

### 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 "Precious Memories"

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 16:11-15

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

THE MORNING MESSAGE "Courageous Hospitality"

**\*HYMN "You Are My All in All"**



You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treas-ure that I  
Tak-ing my sin, my cross, my shame, ris-ing a - gain I bless your



seek. You are my all in all. \_\_\_\_\_ Seek-ing you as a pre-cious  
name, you are my all in all. \_\_\_\_\_ When I fall down you pick me



jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all.  
up. When I am dry you fill my cup. You are my all in all.

*Refrain (sing 2x after each verse)*



Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name. \_\_\_\_\_



Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your 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.***

## Worship Team

Worship Leader <b>Tina Bottini</b>	Soloist <b>Michele Braungard</b>
Elder of the Day <b>Karl Coté</b>	Sound Technician <b>John Lombardo</b>
Deacon of the Day <b>Marv Helf</b>	Video Technician <b>Cameron Kaercher</b>
Liturgist <b>Mark Kaercher</b>	Welcome Host <b>Pam Fitzpatrick</b>
Children's Message <b>Mark Kaercher</b>	Coffee Hour Host <b>Linda Murphy</b>

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### **Make Me a Servant**

Words & Music: Kelly Willard

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### **Sing Praise and Bless the Lord**

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### **Shepherd Me, O God**

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### **You are My All in All**

Words & Music: Dennis L. Jernigan

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### **The Irish Blessing**

Words: Traditional

Music: Benjamin April

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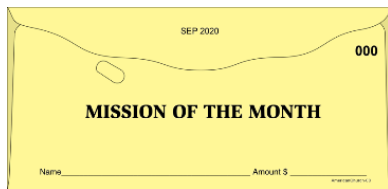
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[www.communityreformedchurch.com](http://www.communityreformedchurch.com)

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Colonie, NY 12205

**May Special Offering Envelopes –**



**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://tinyurl.com/CRCCZoom>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656



## Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

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

and

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

### COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

#### STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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#### CONSISTORY

##### Elders

Karl Coté  
Ana Crosbourne  
Linda Murphy  
Melody York

##### Deacons

Kevin Bottini  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Jessica Kaercher



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# Happy Mother's Day

*Random Thoughts w/ Lotsa Coffee*  
Today we honor the Moms in our life...

Grandmothers

Step-Moms

Angel Moms

Adopted Moms

Mothers

Pet Moms

New Moms

Expecting Moms

Mother-in-laws

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Honorary Moms

