



January 7, 2024  
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\***

“If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would we believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the resemblance of the city of God which has been shown! But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson (from his essay “Nature”)

This is Communion Sunday. If you wish to receive gluten free bread, please inform the elder or the pastor before the Service begins)

PRELUDE “For Unto Us a Child is Born”

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Welcome  
Announcements

THE ELDER’S PRAYER ~ Melody York

THE LIGHTING OF THE Christ Candle

INTROIT “Make Me a Servant”

## CALL TO WORSHIP

There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

***Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place filled with difficult challenges, so we often need that reminder.***

Well, then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear. People of faith: You belong to God! You are God’s beloved.

***Friend, You belong to God! You are God’s beloved!***

Then, let us worship the God who knows us by name and brings us together.

***Let us worship the God who calls us beloved and invites us into fellowship.***

you are loved,  
-GOD

\* HYMN "Speak, O Lord"



Speak, O Lord, as we come to you\_ to re - ceive the food of your  
Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -  
Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your



ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us;\_ shape and  
mil - i - ty.\_ Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the  
plans for us.\_ Truths un - changed from the dawn of time that will



fash - ion us\_ in your like - ness that the light of Christ might be  
ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise; cause our  
ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on your



seen to - day\_ in our acts of love and our deeds of\_ faith.  
eyes to see\_ your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.  
prom - is - es,\_ and by faith we'll walk as you walk with\_ us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us\_ all your pur - pos - es\_ for your  
Words of power that can nev - er fail;\_ let their truth pre - vail\_ o - ver  
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built, and the earth is filled with your



glo - ry.  
un - be - lief.  
glo - ry.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Loving God, from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not good enough.” Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you taught us. When the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Please show us how to return to that truth. Please show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in your good news and your unending love. Amen.*

### TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Jesus Remember Me” (3 times)

*Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your Kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your Kingdom.*

### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

*Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the darkness to find us and claim us. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are God’s own beloved child. Thanks be to God! Amen.*

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ~ Sarah Huiest

### 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 “We Three Kings”**

## **INTRODUCTION TO STAR WORDS**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

## **THE SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Isaiah 43:1-13

But now thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them declared this, and foretold to us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, “It is true.”

You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am God. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses, says the Lord. I am God, and also henceforth I am the Lord; there is no one who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it?

Luke 3: 21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

**THE MORNING MESSAGE: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?**

"We Trust Our Belovedness"



## *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper* Christmas Communion

### THE CALL TO COMMUNION

We have one Lord, one God, one Savior.

*The Holy Spirit makes Christ real to us, binding us in one,  
as we share him together.*

This is something we do eagerly.

*Christ welcomes us here.*

This is something we do seriously.

***For this is the moment of greatest intimacy when we take the symbols of the body and blood of the risen Lord.***

***I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the presence of the Lord."***

**\* A CHRISTMAS CONFESSON OF FAITH**

**"What Child is This?" GREENSLEEVES**

What Child is this, who laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing,

The first system of musical notation for the hymn "What Child is This?" in G major and 6/8 time. It features a treble and bass staff with a grand staff bracket. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

***I believe that Jesus Christ - true God, son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary - is my Lord.***

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

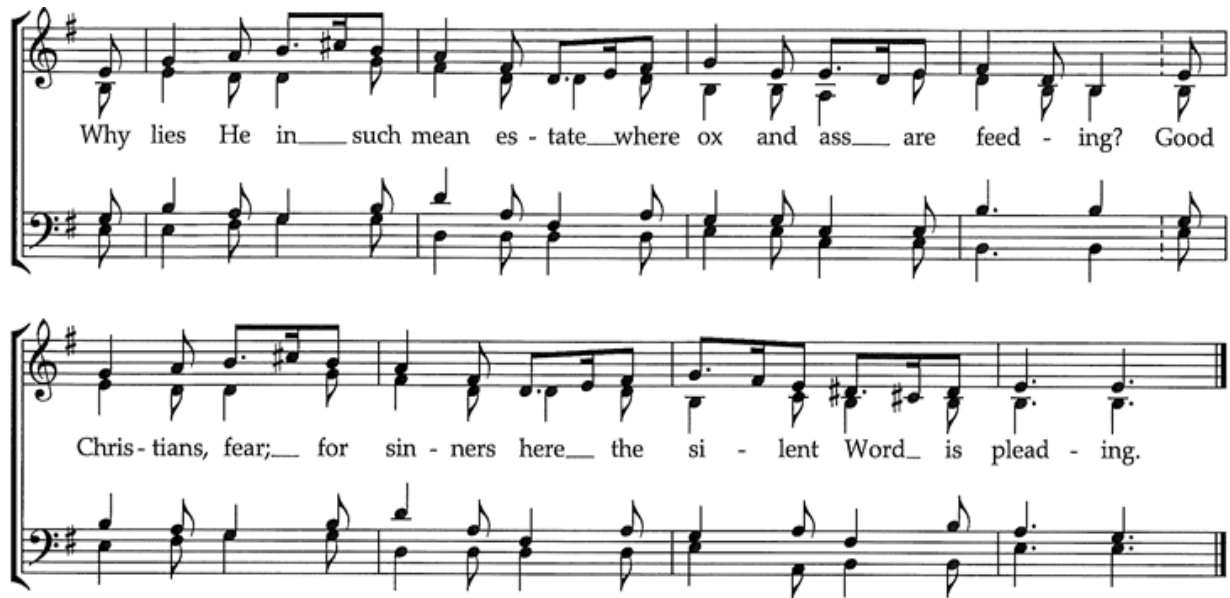
The third system of musical notation, continuing the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

The fourth and final system of musical notation for this section of the hymn. The melody and accompaniment conclude with a double bar line. The lyrics conclude below the treble staff.



***At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.***

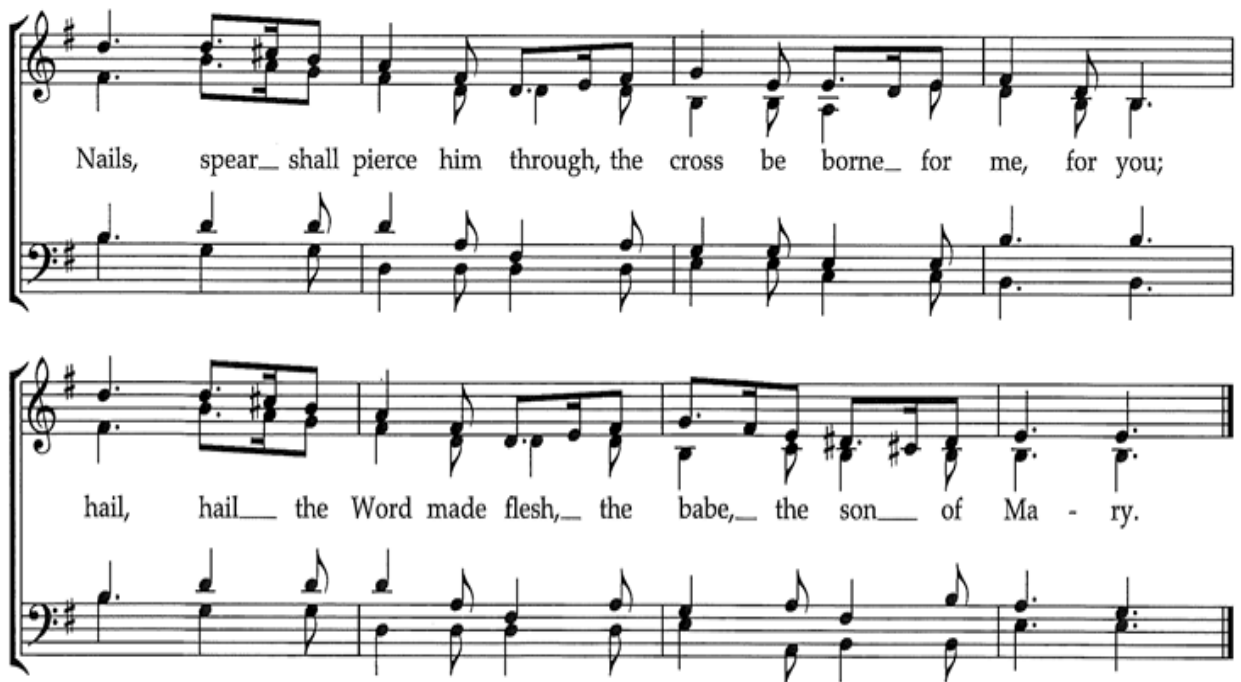


Why lies He in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good

Chris - tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system contains the lyrics 'Why lies He in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good'. The second system contains the lyrics 'Chris - tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.'.

***Not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.***



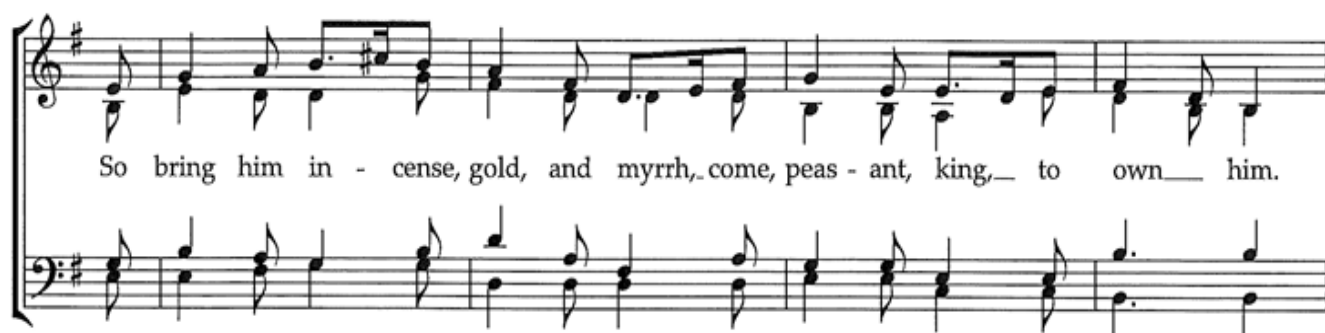
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system contains the lyrics 'Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;'. The second system contains the lyrics 'hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.'.

***All this He has done that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,***





So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant, king, to own him.




The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

***Just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.***



Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

***This is most certainly true.***

## \* PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

## THE PREFACE



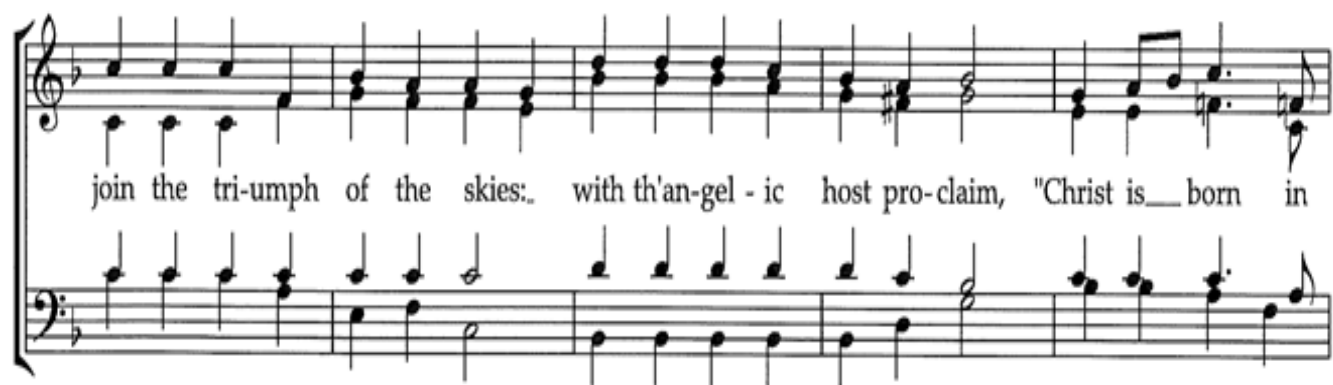
\* A HYMN OF PRAISE "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"



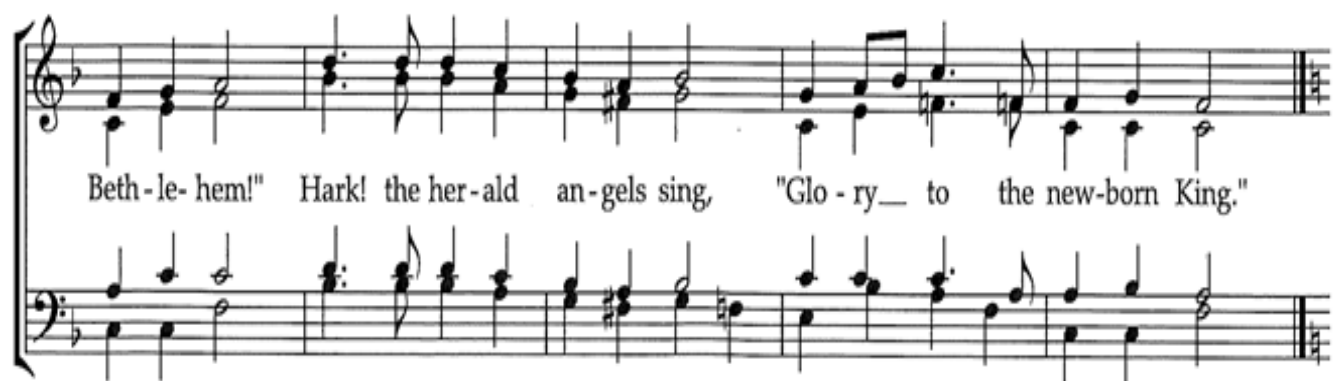
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, - "Glo - ry to the new-born King: peace on earth, and



mer - cy mild, - God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, -



join the tri - umph of the skies: - with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is - born in



Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry - to the new-born King."

## THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

The Holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope: we remember with joy the grace by which God created all things and made us in God's own image.

***We rejoice that God called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations.***

Yet we rebelled against God's will.

***In spite of the prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continued to break the covenant.***

In the fullness of time, God sent God's only Son to save us.

***Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the favored one, Mary, sharing our life, Christ reconciled us to God's love.***

At the Jordan, God's Spirit descended upon Him, anointing Him to preach the good news of God's reign.

***He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of God's compassion.***

He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of God's grace.

***We beheld His glory.***

On the night before He died for us, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with His disciples.

***After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by His followers and beaten.***

He stood trial and was put to death on a cross.

***Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, He was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.***

Through him God bestows the gift of the Spirit, uniting the church, empowering its mission and leading us into the new creation God has promised.

***By His death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body. We therefore receive this Supper in true and unconditional love.***

## THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

***Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:***



### PREPARING OUR HEARTS “Angels We Have Heard On High”

### GLORIA

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all praise be giv'n!  
Bles - sed is the King who came, bring - ing love and light di - vine!

All your glo - ry fills the earth, all your pow - er fills the heav'ns!  
Bles - sed is the King who comes in the word, the bread, the wine!

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## COMMUNION



## THE PROMISE “Lord, Now in Your Mercy”

Lord, now in your mer - cy your ser - vants re - lease as your word as pro - mised, oh grant us your  
A light to the gen - tiles, by whom they now see the glo - ry of Is - rael, the pro mised one

peace. Our eyes your sal - va - tion and mer - cy be -  
He who lives now and ev - er, the hea - ven's bright

hold, pre - pared for the na - tions, as pro - phets fore - told.  
sun, with Fa - ther and Spi - rit e - ter - nal - ly one.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Since, dear God in this place at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, we have heard and we have seen the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*



## THE PARTING BLESSING

The Lord now bless and keep you all and make God's face to shine;

This system contains the first line of the musical score. It features a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Lift up God's face with shin - ing grace and grant you peace div - ine.

This system contains the second line of the musical score. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

To Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit, E - ter - nal three in one,

This system contains the third line of the musical score. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

all glo - ry be e - ter - nal - ly. A - men! So be it done.

This system contains the fourth and final line of the musical score. The melody and accompaniment conclude with a final chord. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

**\* 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.*

All the Liturgical resources for our Advent and Christmas 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  
**Rev. Robert Hoffman**

Director of Music Ministries  
**Ben April**

Elder of the Day  
**Melody York**

Sound Technician  
**John Lombardo**

Deacon of the Day  
**Marv Helf**

Video Technician  
**Cameron Kaercher**

Liturgist  
**Mark Kaercher**

Welcome Host  
**Deb Helf**

Children’s Message  
**Sarah Huiest**

Coffee Hour Host  
**Pam Zepf**

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### **For Unto Us a Child is Born**

Music: George Frederic Handel, arr. Jeff Bennett  
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### **Make Me a Servant**

Words & Music: Kelly Willard  
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### **Speak, O Lord**

Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend  
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### **Jesus Remember Me**

Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé  
Tune: Jaques Berthier, © 1981, Les Presses de  
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GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: © 1981, Les  
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### **We Three Kings**

Music: John Henry Hopkins Jr., arr. Patti Drennan  
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### **This is the Threefold Truth**

Words: Fred Pratt Green  
Music: Jack Schrader  
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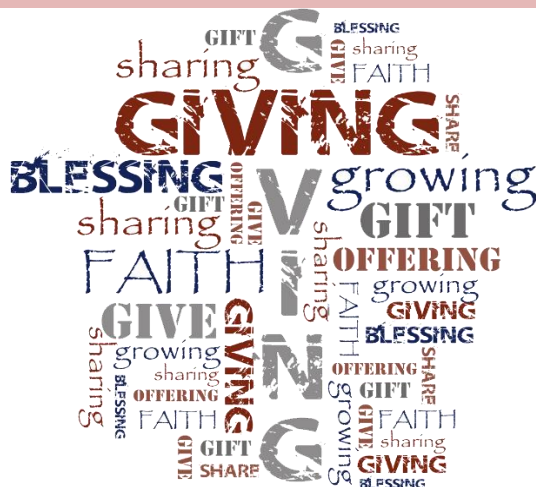
### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Richard E. Gerig  
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### **The Irish Blessing**

Words: Traditional  
Music: Benjamin April  
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### **PayPal:**

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### **Website:**

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

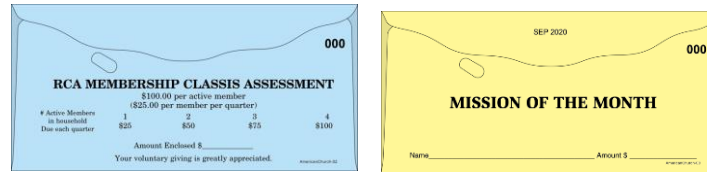
### **Mailing Address:**

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

## Special Offering Envelopes –

### The special offering envelopes for January

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 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

## Online Church Bulletin Board

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

## COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

### STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

**Rev. Robert Hoffman**, Interim Pastor  
[rev.robert.hoffman@gmail.com](mailto:rev.robert.hoffman@gmail.com)

**Lori Côté**  
Church Administrator & Bookkeeper  
[crcclori@gmail.com](mailto:crcclori@gmail.com)

**Ben April**,  
Director of Music Ministries  
[benapril27@gmail.com](mailto:benapril27@gmail.com)

**Sarah Huiest**,  
Youth Coordinator &  
Communication/Media Coordinator  
[crccsarah@gmail.com](mailto:crccsarah@gmail.com)

**Cameron Kaercher**  
Technical Director  
[camkaercher@gmail.com](mailto:camkaercher@gmail.com)

### CONSISTORY

#### Elders

Karl Côté  
Ana Crosbourn  
Linda Murphy  
Melody York

#### Deacons

Kevin Bottini  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Jessica Kaercher



### 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)



701 Sand Creek Road, Colonie, NY 12205  
Telephone: 518-869-5589  
Website - [www.communityreformedchurch.com](http://www.communityreformedchurch.com)  
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