



Easter Sunday Order of Service – April 20, 2025

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.

FOR CONTEMPLATION

In the Direction of Hope

I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden;
I will be there soon.
I'm not the fastest runner,
Lord knows that,
but these legs are moving.
I suppose I could blame my weary spirit for the slow speed.
I could blame the grief I've shoved into my pockets and
laid around my neck.
I could blame my own hesitation to hope,
a hesitation that clings like mud.
But I don't know that Jesus cares about my speed.
So tell God when you see them—
I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden.
I will be there soon.

PRELUDE "Amazing Grace"

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER'S PRAYER – Karl Côté

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST CANDLE AND EASTER CROSS

INTROIT "Agnus Dei"

CALL TO WORSHIP

My dear friends, we have known grief.
We have known loss.
We have known the long road, tired and winding.
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

But today -

Today we know hope.

Today we know life.

Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

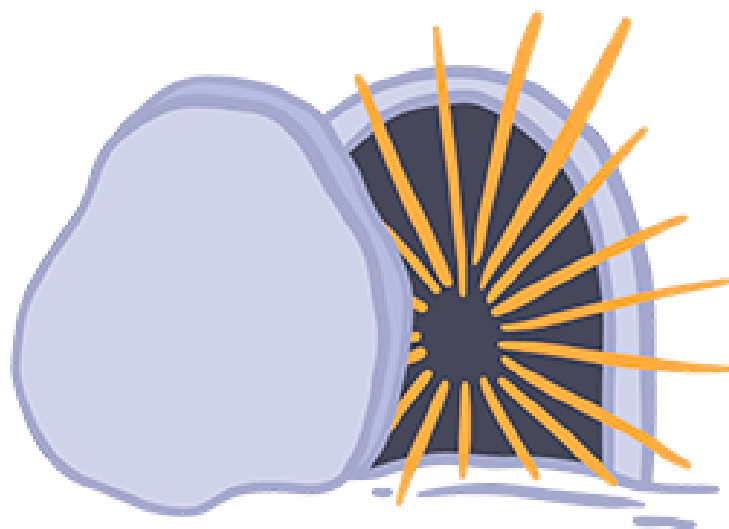
Today we know that death does not have the last word.

Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

Alleluia!

Amen.



Hope is Alive

* HYMN 234 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

All cre - a - tion, join to say Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*. London. 1708. arr.

EASTER HYMN
 7.7.7.7. Alleluia

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In the dark before dawn,
We believe that God is alive.
In the midst of our grief,
We believe the Spirit is at work.
In the chaos of our broken world,
We believe that love is on the loose.
For no stone could keep God at bay,
And no violence could keep God's love from us.
So, today we sing,
Alleluia!
For somewhere in between our belief and our doubt,
Hope lives.
Christ has died
Christ is Risen
Thanks be to God. Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Sing, Praise and Bless the Lord" (3 times)

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The gospel of Luke says, "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles of the resurrection. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

Forgive us God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.
Forgive us God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope.
Forgive us God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.

In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

Show us how to hold onto hope.

Show us how to run toward you.

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “In God Alone” (3 times)

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,

In God my peace and joy.

Only in God my soul can find its rest,

Find its rest and peace.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, at first, the disciples didn’t believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in the upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and on our worst days.

We hear in this that God’s grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we’re grieving, when we’re shouting and when we’re silent, when we’re full of faith and when we’re full of fear.

God’s grace exists for us on the best days and the worst days, and every day in between.

Thanks be to God for this good news!

Allelia! Amen!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Sarah Huie

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 “A Thousand Hallelujahs”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION


SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

THE MORNING MESSAGE “Everything (In) Between – Grief and Hope”

*HYMN 254 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"



1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise:
 2. Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
 3. Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Set your hearts on things a - bove:
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high!

sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
 see the an - cient powers of e - vil in con - fu - sion and re - treat;
 there in all the Fa - ther's glo - ry lives and reigns our King of love;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who has gained the vic - to - ry!

he who on the cross a vic - tim for the world's sal - va - tion bled,
 once he died, and once was bur - ied: now he lives for - ev - er - more,
 hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wound - ed hands and side;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ the world's Re - deem - er, whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
 now let ev - ery wrong be end - ed, ev - ery sin be cru - ci - fied.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty!

WORDS: Christopher Wordsworth, 1862; rev. *Hymns for Today's Church*, 1982
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1864

ODE TO JOY
 8.7.8.7.D.

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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 “Hallelujah Chorus (from Messiah)”

Liturgical resources and prayers for the worship service have been adapted from those created by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC and are used with permission.

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Leader
Rev. Robert Hoffman

Elder of the Day
Karl Coté

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Liturgist
Vicki Lane

Children’s Message
Sarah Huiest

Coffee Hour Host
Lori Coté

Welcome Host
Doris Neese
Lori Coté

Music Director
Ben April

Choir
Tina-Marie Bottini
Michelle Braungard
Sue Bredice
Maggie George
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Marissa Lombardo
Cristine LaPaix
B.J. Todd
Debi Todd

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

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Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

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Sing, Praise and Bless the Lord

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In God Alone

Words & Music: Jacques Berthier
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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April © 2021 Benjamin April

ZOOM

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6880887155>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

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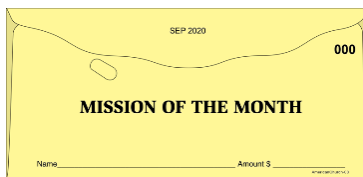
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www.communityreformedchurch.com

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701 Sand Creek Road
Colonie, NY 12205

April Special Offering Envelopes –



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

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Karen Latta

kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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