



***Sunday,  
July 2, 2023***

**Outdoor Worship  
Order of Service –  
9:00 am**

**Please tune your radio to station 88.9 FM**

**\* - 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**

**The love of one's country is a splendid thing.  
But why should love stop at the border?**

**~ Pablo Casals**

## **PRELUDE**

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER'S PRAYER – Marissa Lombardo

INTROIT “Holy Ground”

CALL TO WORSHIP - based on Psalm 146

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!***

I will sing praises to God all my life long.

***Happy are those whose help is in God, creator of heaven and earth, who is forever faithful;***

seeking justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;

***setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the blind;***

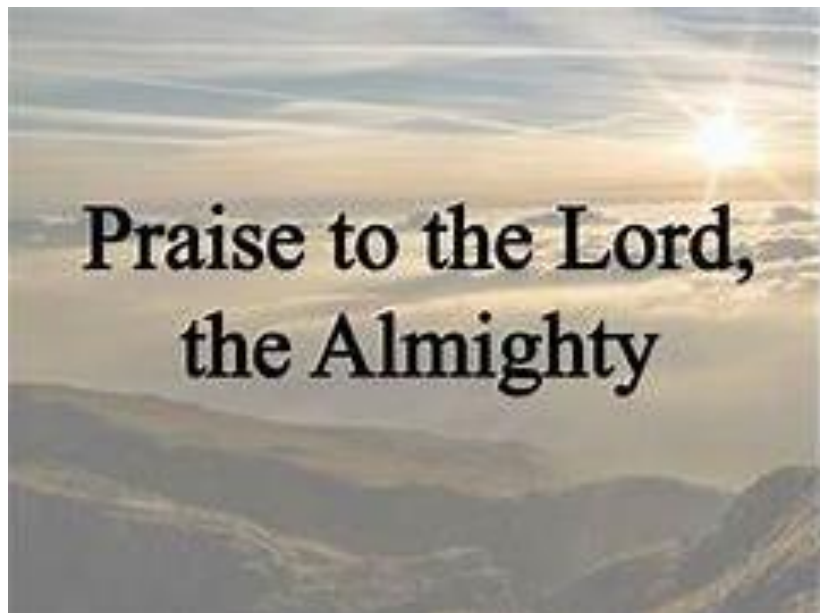
lifting up those who are bowed down and loving the righteous.

***The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan and widow;***

but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

***The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations.***

***Praise the Lord!***



# \*HYMN "Spirit of Gentleness" (Verses 1-3)

*Refrain:*



## ✱RESPONSIVE READING

We hear about the terrible things that happen to others, God,  
***and we are so glad that it wasn't us;***

But, secretly, we wonder what they did to deserve it,  
***and beneath our concerned expressions,  
we smugly applaud ourselves for the goodness  
that we believe keeps us safe.***

But, we're really not that different from these others, God;

We may speak a different language,  
or wear different clothes,  
***but we love and worry as they do,  
and we struggle and doubt as they do,  
and we even fail and sin as they do.***

The truth is no one – not even our enemies -  
***deserves disaster any more than we do.***

And so, we pray for all the places in our world where people suffer,  
where terrible things are happening,

***and where all that is needed is grace and compassion.***  
and we pray that we may find in ourselves  
***the grace that brings comfort and healing to these  
hurting ones.***

***Amen.***

## ✱MEDITATION “Bless the Lord” (3 times)

***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus said that the first commandment was this: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength, and the second commandment is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. “There is no other commandment greater than these.” We hear what you are saying to us, Lord, but it is not easy in today's society. Worshipping position and status, power and wealth

seem to be the first commandments of life these days, and when we are so busy achieving these it doesn't leave much time to care for, let alone love, our neighbor.

***Help us to re-order our priorities, Lord, so that they are more in tune with yours.***

Jesus: Savior and Lord, we confess that there are times when the pattern of our daily lives is modeled on other things than worshipping God and caring for neighbor. All we seem to be creating is a feel-good, self-serving approach to life rather than your costly, self-emptying, servanthood lifestyle.

***Lord, reconnect us to the desire to live out your commandments of love.***

Jesus: Redeemer and Friend, your acts of caring and love, mercy and justice delivered people from lives dominated by injustice and corruption. We confess that when 'economic rationalism' rules the lives of people today, competition replaces compassion, ruthlessness replaces forgiveness, and wounding replaces healing. Yet, in the midst of all this you command us not only to love God wholeheartedly, and to love our neighbor likewise, you command us also to love one another as you love us.

***Lord, stir us into action so that the signs of your powerful love are visible in and through us.***

**TAIZÉ MEDITATION** "Come O Lord & Set Us Free" (3 times)

***Come, O Lord, and set us free;  
Give your people peace.  
Come, O Lord, and set us free;  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.***

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD** – Jessica Kaercher

**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.*

**SOLO** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Jeremiah, Excerpts from Chapters 30 and 31

Thus says the Lord: I am going to restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob, and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt upon its mound, and the citadel set on its rightful site.

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again, I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again, you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again, you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel. "See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock. " For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them,

and give them gladness for sorrow. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

## MORNING MESSAGE “Weeping and Consolation”




\*HYMN 678 "In the Bulb There is a Flower"

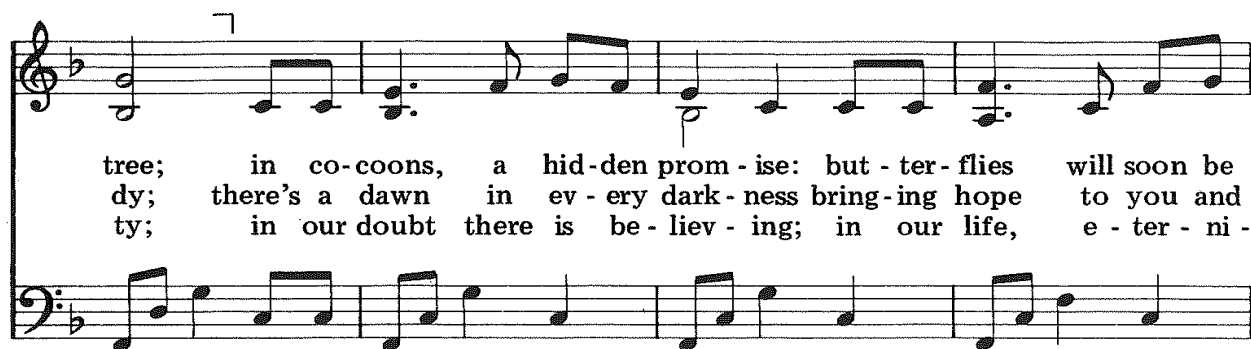
# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 678

Listen, I tell you a mystery . . . 1 Cor. 15:51

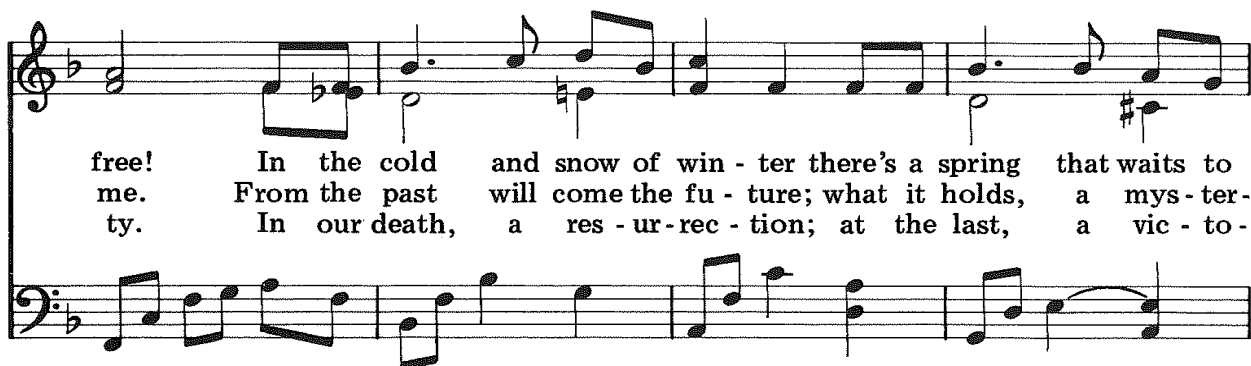
*Unison*




1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple  
 2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -  
 3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -



tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be  
 dy; there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and  
 ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni -



free! In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to  
 me. From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter -  
 ty. In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to -



be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 y, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 ry, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

WORDS and MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986  
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PROMISE  
 8.7.8.7.D.



**\*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.*

Worship Leader  
**Lynne Gilgore**

Elder  
**Marissa Lombardo**

Deacon/Liturgist  
**Jessica Kaercher**

Soloist  
**Dan White**

Sound Technician  
**Jerry Kallner**

Video Technician  
**Alex Huiest**

Welcome Host  
**Mark Kaercher**

Coffee Hour Host  
**Debi Todd**

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### Holy Ground

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### Bless the Lord

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### Come O Lord & Set Us Free

Contributors: John Bell

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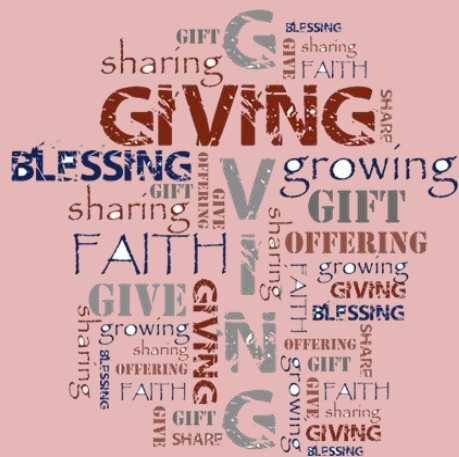
### In the Bulb There is a Flower

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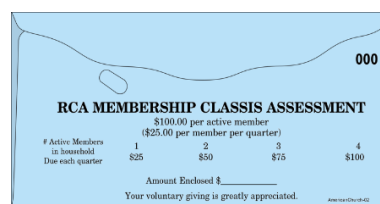
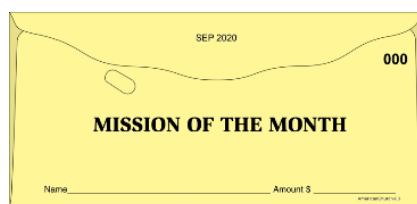
#### Mailing Address:

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

## Special Offering Envelopes –

### The special offering envelopes for July.

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



## Online Church Bulletin Board

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

### 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



### **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)

## COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

### STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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### CONSISTORY

#### Elders

Karl Coté  
Ana Crosbourn  
Marissa Lombardo  
Linda Murphy

#### Deacons

Kevin Bottini  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Jessica Kaercher



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