



The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022
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

Advent is a time for people who know better
to finally do better.

PRELUDE 133 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER'S PRAYER – Marissa Lombardo

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE –

Creation Care and Stewardship Committee

As we enter the Advent season once again,
we pray for a new vision of the Divine Presence,
**in our universe,
in our society,
in our relationships,
and in us;**
and we pray that we may have
**the courage and faith
to cling to the hope such a vision offers.**

And so, as we light the Candle of Hope
as we watch the darkness retreat,
and as we enjoy the light of the flame,
***we give thanks for your Divine Presence
from which we cannot be separated.
Amen.***

INTROIT “The King of Glory Comes”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Into our world,
filled with both community and polarization,
filled with both truth and falsehood,
filled with both goodness and evil,
filled with both beauty and ugliness,
God comes.

The Divine Presence has always filled creation,
it fills our lives and world now,
and it will always fill the Cosmos
which God made and loves.

And so we celebrate again the Advent of our Divine Savior,
***our Divine Companion,
our Divine Lover;***

and we celebrate the Divine Presence
that is always around us,
among us,
and within us.

Thanks be to God!
Amen.

* HYMN 283 "Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending"

*1 Jesus comes with clouds descending--
See the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.
God appears on earth to reign.*

*2 Every eye shall then behold You
Robed in awesome majesty;
Those who jeered at him and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving,
Shamed and grieving,
Shall their true Messiah see.
Shall their true Messiah see.*

*3 All the wounds of cross and passion
still his glorious body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransome worshipers.
With what gladness, with what gladness,
with what gladness,
we shall see the Savior's scars;
we shall see the Savior's scars!*

*4 Yes, Amen! Let all adore You
High on your eternal throne;
Crowns and empires fall before You--
Claim the kingdom for Your own:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus, Everlasting Christ, come down;
Everlasting Christ, come down!*

RESPONSIVE READING

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 deepest darkness,

that your life expands

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 152 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (2 times)

***“Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

We become aware, O God, of this moment,
of being completely submerged in your presence
here in this place
here on this day
here among these people.
We breathe in your stillness
and breathe out our distractions.

We become aware, O God, of our bodies,
hearts, minds and souls.
We feel the weight we carry,
the weakness in our bones,
the scars on our hearts,
the overwhelm of our minds.
We breathe in your peace
and breathe out the weight of demands.

Sometimes, when the world is so noisy and chaotic,
when it's just too much to bear,
we curl up under the covers
to get away and hide.
We know that rest is needed and necessary,
but we wish we could stay here.
We wish we could ignore the world
with all its struggles and challenges,
with all its pain and sadness,
we just can't cry one more tear.

Yet this is not the life you want for us,
you don't want us to sleep through it all.
You want a life that is vibrant, full,
and joyous for us.
You call us to awaken from the slumber,
to be alert and attentive,
to notice,
to feel.

Here in this place, among these people
we choose again to breathe,

*we open our eyes,
to see
to feel
to live.*

And we recognize your presence among us, God,
*within us all
connecting us with each other
and with you.*

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION 135 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (Verse 1)

*I 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 - Rom. 13:14

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Sarah Huiest

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.*

ANTHEM “Advent Promise”

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

THE MORNING MESSAGE “The Heart of Authentic Spirituality”

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play;
In music sweet the tones repeat,
“There’s peace on earth, good will to men.”*

*And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
“For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”*

*HYMN 277 “The King Shall Come”

***1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks;
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.***

*2 Not as of old, a little child,
to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.*

*3 The King shall come when morning dawns
and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn,
the day that e'er shall last.*

*4 Then let the endless bliss begin,
by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong,
and truth shall be extolled.*

*5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray,
come quickly, King of kings!*

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 Leaders

Minister of Word and
Sacrament
**Rev. Bruce K.
Cornwell**

Elder of the Day
Marissa Lombardo

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Liturgist
Vicki Lane

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Director of Music
Ministries
Ben April

Soloist
Tina Bottini

Choir

**Tina-Marie Bottini
Michelle Braungard
Maggie George
Kaaren Haushalter
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Pam Izzo
Marissa Lombardo
Lisa McGee**

Technical Director
**Lori Côté/Cameron
Kaercher**

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Addison York

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

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Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell
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Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

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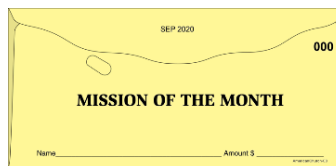
Mailing Address:

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

Special Offering Envelopes –

There are three special offering envelopes for November

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.



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

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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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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