

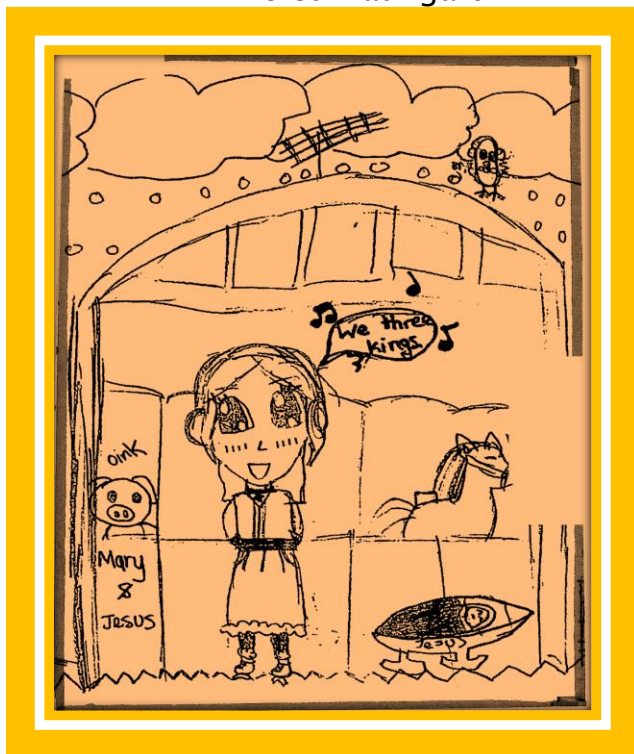
# Christmas Eve 2022



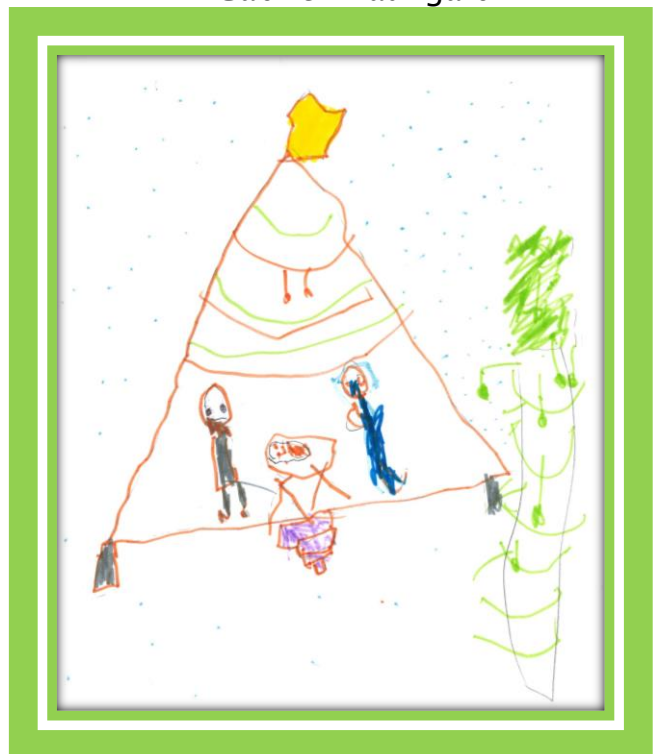
Violet Braungard



Gabriel Braungard



Annabel Macomber



Zachary Huie

# 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

"You've been given a great gift, George: a chance to see what the world would be like without you."

~ Clarence Oddbody to George Bailey  
*It's a Wonderful Life*

**PRELUDE** "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
"Lo How a Rose ere Blooming"  
"Meditation on Silent Night"  
"One Small Child"  
"What Child is This"  
"O Holy Night"

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We notice how everything has its place in the universe,  
everything is connected, and everything belongs;  
***We praise you that we are included in the diversity of  
the universe.***

We have the capacity to welcome one another  
and create a sense of belonging for each other;  
***We are thankful for the sense of community this creates.***

Your Reign of Love welcomes all  
and gives everyone a place to belong.  
***Thank you for wanting everyone to be welcomed at your table.***

Today we see all who feel lonely and rejected  
because others have refused to give them space to belong;  
***We recognize that this is sometimes true of ourselves  
and we know the heartache this carries.  
Forgive us for rejecting others.***

We remember the homeless, the orphaned, the widowed,  
and all who feel that they have no place in the world;  
***We hold them in our hearts and hope to extend a sense  
of belonging to them.***

We are aware of those who insist on drawing lines  
and shutting people out;  
***May our hearts soften to them and see that they need  
your love and acceptance too.***

We recognize our inability to truly value one another for who we are;  
***We long for a world of radical belonging.  
May we become those who live out this longing.***

*(The Christ Candle is lighted)*

As we light this candle, we express our longing to belong  
***And we cling to Christ's embrace that guarantees our place of  
belonging.***

**INTROIT – “For There’s a Savior Born Today”**

## **THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

We dream of a world where we all have a place and where we all know  
that we belong.

***But that is not yet our world.***

We long to erase the lines that keep some in and others out, and we  
long to expand our circles  
until everyone is included.

***But that is not yet our experience in this world.***

Christ has come into our world with open arms welcoming all into his Reign of Love.

***Christ is with us now no matter who we are, what we've done, or where we're from.***

Christ will continue to come to set us free to be fully and uniquely our God-imaged selves.

***We cling to God's welcome and the place of belonging God gives us in God's cosmic family. Amen.***

## **HYMN 173 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

***1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;***

***[Refrain:]***

***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

***2 True God of true God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (Refrain)***

***3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest"; (Refrain)***

***4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)***

## **THE RESPONSIVE READING**

We were heavy with sorrow, but joy interrupted.  
We were deep in the night, but a star appeared.  
We were silent with sadness, but the heavens rang.

***And the splendor shone around them  
When the time had fully come.***

We were hardened by conflict, but love intervened.  
We were frightened by shadows, but light took them away.  
We were haunted by fears, but a child brought us hope.

***And she laid him in a manger  
When the time had fully come.***

We were dismal and defeated, but faith set us on fire.  
We were weary and complaining, but our hearts discovered praise.  
We were doubtful and confused, but a door to life was opened.

***And the guiding star went before them  
When the time had fully come.***

We were arrogant and angry, but his innocence disarmed us.  
We were cruel, crude, and clumsy, but his grace made all things new.  
We were selfish, narrow, greedy, but his joy we had to share.

***And they offered him their treasured gifts  
When the time had fully come.***

We were sheep who had lost their way, but the shepherd knew our names.

We were strangers without a country, but our kingdom came to us.

We were children far from home, but God sent his Son to guide.

***And the Word was flesh among us  
When the time had fully come.***

~ written by Kenneth I. Morse, from "In Straw and Story,"

**TAIZÉ MEDITATION 152 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (2 times)**

***"Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

When we think of you, God, when we look at ourselves,  
at others and at the universe,  
we become aware again of Christ's presence in it all;  
***We thank you for the deep connections we  
experience with all that is within the universe.***

We find belonging in your heart and life,  
and we find our place at Christ's table;  
***We thank you for the invitation to the table  
and we take our place alongside all your beloved  
children..***

The Christmas story offers a place for so many different people to  
belong—  
not just accepted, but fully included.  
***We thank you for the knowledge of our own belonging.***

We sometimes fail to welcome one another,  
to extend the same inclusion and acceptance;  
***Forgive us.***

We fall back into the inability to live in radical belonging  
and to make space for everyone—  
even though there is more than enough space for us all;  
***Forgive us for being greedy with your grace,  
for not making the experience of your grace  
unconditional for all.***

Sometimes we make ourselves gatekeepers to the Reign of your love,  
choosing who is allowed in and who must be kept out.  
***Forgive us for thinking we can decide who is included in  
your circle of love.***

We have felt the loneliness and rejection that comes  
when we make ourselves gatekeepers of God's gift of belonging;  
***Forgive us for not extending your welcome to everyone,  
and excluding ourselves from the love others have  
to give.***

May we learn that in your Reign of Love  
***everyone is welcome,  
everyone is celebrated,  
and we don't need to play gatekeeper anymore.  
May we breathe easier knowing this weight is  
off our shoulders. Amen.***

## OUR REQUEST FOR MERCY 135 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*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

## THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

## ANTHEM “Huron Carol”

## SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE “Christ's Light is Our Light”

**HYMN 152 “Angels We Have Heard On High”**

*1 Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.*

*Refrain:*

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

*2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say, what may the tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]*

*3 Come to Bethlehem, and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]*

*4 See within a manger laid  
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
sing with us our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

**THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-14**

**HYMN 164 “Silent Night”**

*Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace*

*Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born  
Christ, the Savior is born*



*Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth "*

*Silent Night! Holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!*

THE PROMISE John 3:16

RESPONSE 146 "Joy to the World"

*1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*4 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

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

Elder of the Day  
**Karl Coté**

Deacon of the Day  
**Jessica Kaercher**

Liturgist  
**Vicki Lane**

Sound and Lighting Technician  
**John Lombardo**

Technical Director  
**Cameron Kaercher**

Video Technician  
**Alex Huiest**

Welcome Hosts  
**Lou Ann Connelly**  
**Dave Braungard**

Director of Music  
Ministries  
**Benjamin April**

Soloists  
**Tina Bottini**  
**Alex Huiest**  
**Kevin Ingalls**  
**Marissa Lombardo**  
**Ron Smith**

Choir  
**Tina-Marie Bottini**  
**Michelle Braunguard**  
**Maggie George**  
**Marvin Helf**  
**Kevin Ingalls**  
**Pam Izzo**  
**Paulette Johnson**  
**Marissa Lombardo**  
**Lisa McGee**  
**Ron Smith**  
**Abby Todd**  
**BJ Todd**  
**Debi Todd**

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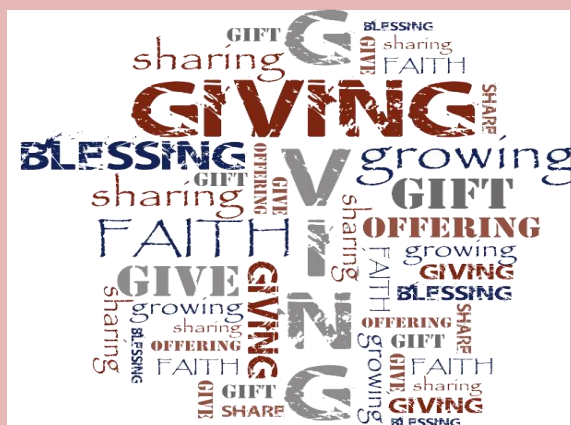
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French Canadian Melody, arr. Mark  
Burrows  
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**Silent Night**  
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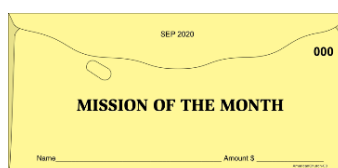
**Mailing Address:**

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

**Special Offering Envelopes –**

**There are three special offering envelopes for December**

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

# COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE

## STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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Communication/Media Coordinator**  
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**Cameron Kaercher**  
Video Tech Director

### CONSISTORY

#### Elders

Karl Coté  
Ana Crosbourn  
Marissa Lombardo  
Linda Murphy

#### Deacons

Kevin Bottini  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Jessica Kaercher



### Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

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



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