



The Third Sunday after Pentecost



June 13, 2021

Order of Worship
9:00 am

Please tune your radio to station 88.9 FM

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

"Unraveling external selves and coming home to our real identity
is the true meaning of soul work."

Sue Monk Kidd

PRELUDE "It is well with my Soul, Morning Has Broken, Gather Us In"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

INTROIT "Sanctuary"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise be to you, God of life,
*for the shoot that breaks through the earth,
that strains toward the sun,
that blossoms and makes of its fruit
an offering to the world.*

Praise be to you, God of life,
*for the seed that dies,
and is resurrected into a tree;
for the tree whose longevity
whispers a parable of eternity.*

Praise be to you, God of life,
*for your presence and purpose,
that infuses all of creation,
and calls us to follow,
to embrace life,
to share life,
and to offer the fruit of our lives
as worship to you.*

HYMN ~ "In Christ Alone"

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –*

***For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.***

***There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.***

***No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.***

THE RESPONSIVE READING

We may not be able to confront queens,
or challenge presidents;
We may not have the capacity to divert resources,
or uplift communities;
We may not have the voice to silence the noise of war,
or the words to negotiate peace between armies;
But, as we follow you, O Christ, we are able to do something.

***And so, we pray that you would inspire us
to commit to and act on
the small difference we can make:***

May we bring peace
***through small acts of gentleness
and reconciliation;***

May we bring wealth
***through small contributions
and collaborations;***

May we bring safety
*through small acts of consideration
and acceptance;*

May we bring wholeness
*through small acts of care
and service.*

*And in the small ways, O God,
may our small difference make a big contribution
to your saving work in our world.*

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!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I’m not really sure I want to admit it, God,
but I am a person with gifts.

Oh, I’m not one of those super-talented, can-do-it-all, people,
*but there are things I’m good at, things that might even be
useful to You and others.*

But, here’s the problem – if I admit it, then I have to do something;
*then there are no more excuses; no more comfortable
inadequacies to hide behind.*

If I acknowledge the abilities and strengths You have placed in me
*I’m going to have actually use them; I’m going to have to
serve, and be accountable, and maybe even make
commitments and stick to them.*

But, if I pretend that I’m not gifted at all,
I lose something of myself,

I allow myself to be less than I really am,
to experience less, to learn less, to be less alive.

So, thank you, God, for making me a gifted person,
*and thank you that my gifts can make a difference, can, in
some small way, help to make Your dream for my world a
reality. Amen.*

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “The Kingdom of God” (3 times)

*The Kingdom of God is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us
the gates of your kingdom.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ~ Sarah Huiest

DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Tina Bottini

CALL TO OFFERING

God’s holiness inspires us to be more holy;
God’s love causes us to be more loving;

God’s life in us brings to birth dreams and visions for a better and
more just world.

*Let us offer our gifts and our lives in thankfulness for all God
has done and is doing in our lives.*

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

PayPal:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=N67JS9D5MLMGS

Mailing Address:

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

OUR PRAISE TO GOD (THE DOXOLOGY)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

THE DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

We dedicate these gifts and our lives to you, O God, in thanksgiving for your great gift of Jesus in whom we know an inner peace. Strengthen and empower us with the Holy Spirit to be bearers of this peace wherever we go. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

ELDER'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ~ Ellen Buono

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.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But

while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

THE MORNING MESSAGE "More Important Than Who You Are"

"A Man After Your Own Heart"

By Billy Sprague and Wayne Kirkpatrick

HYMN ~ "My Life Flows On"

Robert Lowry

***My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.***

***Refrain:
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?***

***Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.***

*It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]*

*What though my joys and comforts die,
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

THE FOURFOLD AMEN

STAINER

Minister of Word and Sacrament
Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell

Director of Music Ministries
Benjamin April

Soloist
Benjamin April

Deacon of the Day
Tina Bottini

Elder of the Day
Ellen Buono

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Sound Technician
Kevin Bottini

Video Technician
Lori Côté