

LOOK FOR
GOD
IN THE FACE OF
EVERY PERSON
YOU MEET &
REACH OUT
TO THEM IN
LOVE



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024
10:00 AM

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.

Please join in the worship liturgy by reading the sections in ***bold italics***.

* - Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

WITNESSING STEWARD – Karen Reynolds

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Melody York

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “Holy Ground”

CALL TO WORSHIP

How deeply you have loved us, Jesus; how willingly you stepped into our experience, how completely you empathized with all that we endure.

Teach us to love as you have loved us.

How sacrificially you have loved us, Jesus; how completely you gave yourself for us, how courageously you suffered for our sakes.

Teach us to love as you have loved us.

How restoratively you have loved us, Jesus; how generously you share your life, how extravagantly you make yourself available to us.

Teach us to love as you have loved us.

We praise you for your love which is given so freely and so unconditionally. And we thank you for believing that we could learn to offer such love to each other. Amen.



* HYMN "Gather Us In"



Here in this place new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van-ish'd a - way, see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face, we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
 light-years a - way, but here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 now is the King-dom and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the blind and the lame;
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the proud and the strong;
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and make us your own;



call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

RESPONSIVE READING

Your love, O God, is an active love:

***engaged,
involved,
immersed.***

Your love, O God, is seen in what you do, not just in what you say:

***in the blessing of children,
in the meals with outcasts,
in the touching of the untouchable,***

in your presence,

and your self-giving,

in your opening of the way to life

to all who will come;

And your love, O God, is expressed through people like us:

as we share our wealth in simplicity and generosity;

as we share wholeness in care and healing of the sick and broken;

***as we share hospitality by being truly present to the lonely,
the imprisoned and the marginalized;***

as we share peace in kindness, listening and acceptance

with those who challenge us, confront us and threaten us.

As you have loved us in incarnate action, O God,

***may we learn to be little incarnations through whom your
love is expressed and experienced
in action. Amen.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Sing Praises”

***Sing praises, all you peoples,
sing praises to the Lord.***

***Sing praises, all you peoples,
sing praises to the Lord!***

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we treat our faith as nothing more than a self-help system
and you, God, as simply a cure for whatever ails us,
Where is the love?

When we use the gifts our planet gives us
with little care for our wastefulness and destruction,
Where is the love?

When we deny and disdain truths and practices
that others hold dear,
Where is the love?

When we ignore the sickness, the loneliness,
the struggle and the vulnerability of others,
because it doesn't affect us,
Where is the love?

When we berate ourselves for our failures
or hold ourselves to impossible and trivial standards
Where is the love?

***Forgive us, Lord,
and teach us and our world
what it really means to love.
Amen.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Jesus, Remember Me” (3 times)

***Jesus, remember me
when you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your Kingdom.***

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 John 4: 7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

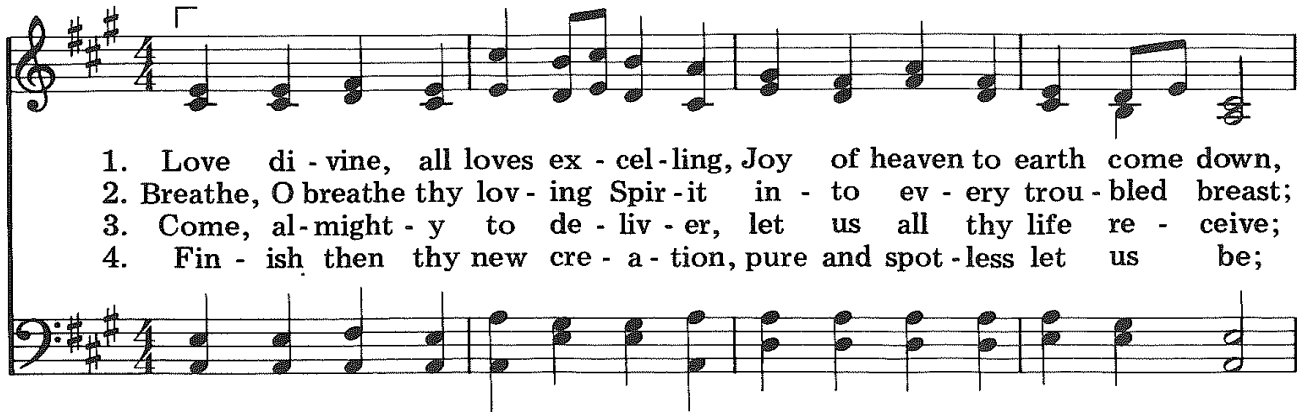
And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So, we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

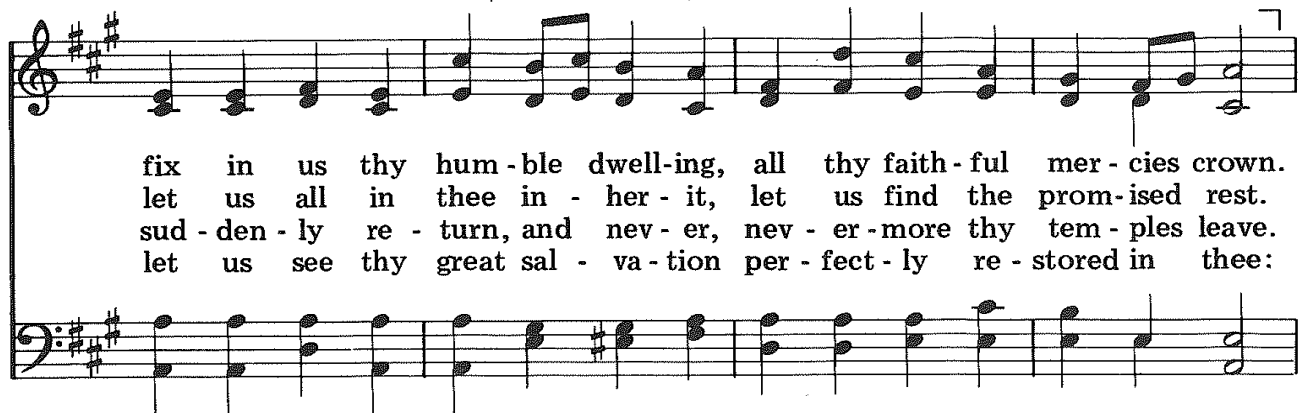
This is the Word of The Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

THE MORNING MESSAGE "LOVE"

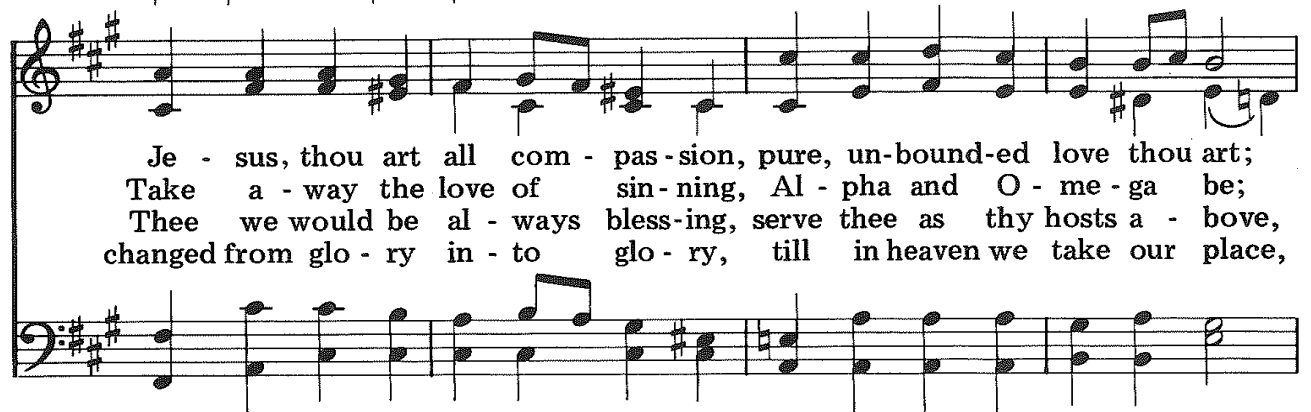
*HYMN 558 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



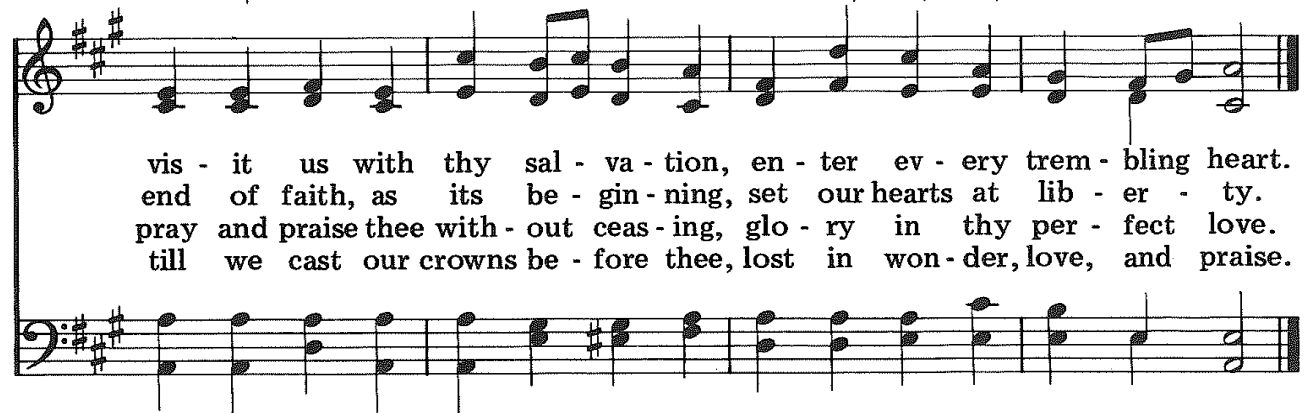
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 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.
Amen.*

Worship Team

Worship Leader
Tina Bottini

Elder of the Day
Melody York

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Liturgist
Mark Kaercher

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Soloist
Marissa Lombardo

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Alex Huiest

Welcome Host
Debi Helf

Coffee Hour Host
Lori Coté

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Holy Ground

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Sing Praises

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Jesus, Remember Me

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Gather Us In

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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

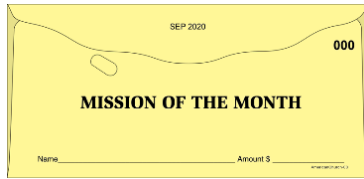
Mailing Address:

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

Special Offering Envelopes –

There are three special offering envelopes for April

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.



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://tinyurl.com/CRCCZoom>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell

crccsandy@gmail.com

and

Karen Latta

kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

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