



Christmas Day

December 25, 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

*"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past,
courage for the present, hope for the future."*

~ Agnes M. Pahro

PRELUDE “The First Noel”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

~ written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church
Congregational in Rochester, NH.

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.

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 MORNING MESSAGE

AMAZING PEACE: A CHRISTMAS POEM BY DR. MAYA ANGELOU

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.
Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

CAROL INTRODUCTION

THE FIRST CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heav'n's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.*

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.*

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
Oh, rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!*

*For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When Christ shall come and all shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And saints shall meet Him in the air,
And with the angels sing.*

AMAZING PEACE

We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God.
Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?
Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.
It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.
Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.
In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.

We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

CAROL INTRODUCTION

THE SECOND CAROL "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

*Said the night wind to the little lamb
"Do you see what I see?" (Do you see what I see?)
"Way up in the sky, little lamb
Do you see what I see?" (Do you see what I see?)
"A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as long as a kite
With a tail as long as a kite"*

*Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy
"Do you hear what I hear?" (Do you hear what I hear?)
"Ringing through the night, shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear?" (Do you hear what I hear?)
"A song, a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea"*

*Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
"Do you know what I know?" (Do you know what I know?)
"In your palace warm, mighty king
Do you know what I know?" (Do you know what I know?)
"A child, a child shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold
Let us bring him silver and gold"*

*Said the king to the people everywhere
Listen to what I say
Pray for peace, people everywhere
Listen to what I say
"A child, a child sleeping in the night
We will bring Him goodness and light
We will bring Him goodness and light" (goodness and light)
Goodness and light (goodness and light)
Bring Him goodness (goodness and light)
Goodness and light*

AMAZING PEACE

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.
We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us.
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.
It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

CAROL INTRODUCTION

THE THIRD CAROL "The Peace Carol"

*The garment of life, be it tattered and torn
The cloak of the soldier is withered and worn
But what child is this that was poverty born?
The peace of Christmas Day*

*The branch that bears the bright holly
The dove that rests in yonder tree
The light that shines for all to see
The peace of Christmas Day*

*The hope that has slumbered for 2000 years
A promise that silenced a thousand fears
A faith that can hobble an ocean of tears
The peace of Christmas Day*

*The branch that bears the bright holly
The dove that rests in yonder tree
The light that shines for all to see
The peace of Christmas Day*

*Add all the grief that people may bear
Total the strife and the troubles and care
Put them in columns and leave them right there
The peace of Christmas Day*

*The branch that bears the bright holly
The dove that rests in yonder tree
The light that shines for all to see
The peace of Christmas Day*

*The branch that bears the bright holly
The dove that rests in yonder tree
The light that shines for all to see
The peace of Christmas Day*

AMAZING PEACE

On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.
At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices
To celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortal's, Believers and Non-Believers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

CAROL INTRODUCTION

THE FOURTH CAROL "Let There Be Peace On Earth"

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.*

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God our Creator,
family all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.*

AMAZING PEACE

Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.

— Maya Angelou (2005)

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE “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
Kevin Ingalls

Director of Music
Ministries
Ben April

Soloist
Ben April
Marissa Lombardo

Choir

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

Technical Director
Cameron Kaercher

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Welcome Host
Karen Ingalls

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The First Noel
Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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Hear**
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**Let There be Peace on
Earth**
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Jill Jackson
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The Irish Blessing
Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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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

Offerings and gifts to the church may be submitted online via PayPal (link found below or on our website), by mailed check, by direct bank payment or by placing them in the offering box.

PayPal:

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

Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

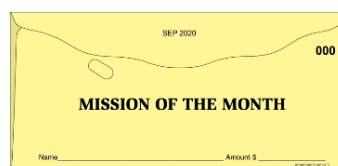
Mailing Address:

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

Special Offering Envelopes –

There are three special offering envelopes for 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.





Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell
crccsandy@gmail.com
Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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Lori Coté
Church Administrator
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Cameron Kaercher
Technical Director

CONSISTORY

Elders

Karl Coté
Ana Crosbourne
Marissa Lombardo
Linda Murphy

Deacons

Kevin Bottini
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Jessica Kaercher



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