



The First Sunday after Christmas

January 1, 2023

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*

“Not because of who I am, but because of what You’ve done;
Not because of what I’ve done, but because of who You are!
I am Yours, I am Yours”

~ Mark Hall

PRELUDE “What Child is This”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER ~ Marissa Lombardo

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we continue to celebrate this Christmas season,
we pray for a new vision of Divine Compassion,
in our universe,
in our society,
in our relationships,
and in us;
and we pray that we may have
the kindness and awareness
to share the Divine Compassion
that we have received in Christ.

And so, as we light the Christ Candle on this New Year’s Day
as we invite compassion and kindness into our world and lives,
and as we enjoy the comfort of the flame,
we give thanks for your Divine Compassion
that always moves in the Cosmos
toward justice and love in Christ.

Amen.

INTROIT “Holy Ground”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Into our world filled with both wholeness and suffering,
filled with both self-giving and self-protection,
filled with both dignity and humiliation,
filled with both compassion and callousness,
God comes.

The Divine Compassion has always filled creation;
it fills our lives now,
and it will always fill the Cosmos
which God serves and heals.

And so we celebrate again the birth of the Divine Messiah,
the Bringer of God's Reign,
our Divine Comforter,
and we celebrate the Divine Compassion
that is always seeking to heal the world,
around us,
among us,
and within us.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

* HYMN 185 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

*1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

*Refrain:
O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. (Refrain)*

*3 Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God on high. (Refrain)*

***4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)***

***5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds thro' the earth and skies. (Refrain)***

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Standing at the beginning of a New Year
we reflect:

***on the moments of great celebration,
on the goals we have achieved,
on the many ways we have grown.***

We celebrate all the accomplishments
and the moments of greatness we've experienced.

But all these accomplishments have occupied our minds,
***and drawn energy from us,
making our focus very narrow.***

Forgive us when we have been so focused on our own needs
***that we have missed the needs
of those around us.***

We give thanks that is in you
that we live and move and have our being;

We celebrate being able to feel your presence within us
***if we would only take a moment to notice,
to recognize the divine breath
flowing through us.***

In the same way, your presence is within the world,
***in every living being and created thing,
in the very cosmos with all its mysteries.***

Forgive us for missing the sacredness in the Earth
and the connection we have with her,
for using the Earth and all her resources
for our own gain,

and for acting as her conquerors
instead of her children.

As we enter the New Year with all its new promises
and possibilities,
*we open to the sacredness that is already there
waiting for us to discover it
and protect it.*

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Come and Fill our Hearts” (3 times)

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
Alleluia!*

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS ~ John 1:12

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ~ Lisa McGee

DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Kevin Bottini

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 Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem

of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

THE MORNING MESSAGE “Unlikely Candidates”

Who Am I?

Words by Mark Hall

Music by Casting Crowns

*Who am I that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name,
Would care to feel my hurt?
Who am I that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever wand’ring heart?*

*And not because of who I am,
But because of what You’ve done;
Not because of what I’ve done
But because of who You are!*

*I am a flower quickly fading,
here today and gone tomorrow;
A wave tossed in the ocean,
A vapor in the wind
Still you hear me when I’m calling*

*Lord, you catch me when I'm falling.
And you've told me who I am.
I am yours, I am yours*

*Who am I that the Lord of all the earth
Would look on me with love,
And watch me rise again?
Who am I that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me?*

*And not because of who I am,
But because of what You've done;
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You are!*

*I am a flower quickly fading,
here today and gone tomorrow;
A wave tossed in the ocean,
A vapor in the wind
Still you hear me when I'm calling
Lord, you catch me when I'm falling.
And you've told me who I am.
I am yours*

*Not because of who I am,
But because of what You've done;
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You are!
I am Yours
I am Yours*



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Christmas Communion

THE CALL TO COMMUNION

We have one Lord, one God, one Savior.

The Holy Spirit makes Christ real to us, binding us in one, as we share him together.

This is something we do eagerly.

Christ welcomes us here.

This is something we do seriously.

For this is the moment of greatest intimacy when we take the symbols of the body and blood of the risen Lord.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the presence of the Lord."

* A CHRISTMAS CONFSSION OF FAITH

"What Child is This?" GREENSLEEVES

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?*

I believe that Jesus Christ - true God, son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary - is my Lord.

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

*Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent word is pleading.*

Not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

*Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

All this He has done that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own Him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

Just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

*Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

This is most certainly true.

* PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

* A HYMN OF PRAISE “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! The Herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”*

THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

The Holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope: we remember with joy the grace by which God created all things and made us in God’s own image.

We rejoice that God called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations.

Yet we rebelled against God's will.

In spite of the prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continued to break the covenant.

In the fullness of time, God sent God's only Son to save us.

Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the favored one, Mary, sharing our life, Christ reconciled us to God's love.

At the Jordan, God's Spirit descended upon Him, anointing Him to preach the good news of God's reign.

He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of God's compassion.

He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of God's grace.

We beheld His glory.

On the night before He died for us, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with His disciples.

After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by His followers and beaten.

He stood trial and was put to death on a cross.

Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, He was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.

Through him God bestows the gift of the Spirit, uniting the church, empowering its mission and leading us into the new creation God has promised.

By His death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body. We therefore receive this Supper in true and unconditional love.

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died!
Christ is Risen!
Christ will come again!*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS “Angels We Have Heard On High”

GLORIA

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of hosts, all praise be given!
All your glory fills the earth,
all your power fills the heavens!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Blessed is the King who came,
bringing love and light divine!
Blessed is the King who comes
in the word, the bread, the wine!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

COMMUNION

THE PROMISE “Away in the Manger”

AWAY IN A MANGER

*Lord, now in your mercy your servants release
as your word as promised. Oh, grant us your peace.
Our eyes your salvation and mercy behold,
prepared for the nations, as prophets foretold.*

*A light to the gentiles, by whom they now see
the glory of Isr'el, the promised one He
who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright sun,
with Father and Spirit eternally one.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Since, dear God in this place at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, we have heard and we have seen the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE PARTING BLESSING “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

*The Lord now bless and keep you all
And make God's face to shine;
Lift up God's face with shining grace
And grant you peace divine.*

*To Father, Son and Spirit,
Eternal three in one,
All glory be eternally.
Amen! So be it done!*

* BENEDICTION

* THE IRISH BLESSING

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back,
May the sunshine 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.*

Worship Leaders

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

Elder of the Day
Marissa Lombardo

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Liturgist
Lisa McGee

Children's Message
Lisa McGee

Director of Music
Ministries
Ben April

Soloist
Alex Huiest

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
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Welcome Host
Linda Murphy

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**Come and Fill our
Heart**
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**Angels We Have Heard
on High**
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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

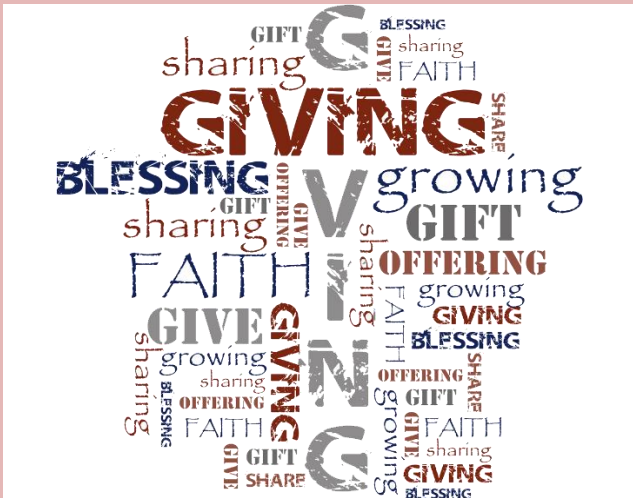
To join in Sunday Worship via Zoom,
use the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/CRCCZoom>

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 located near the exit.



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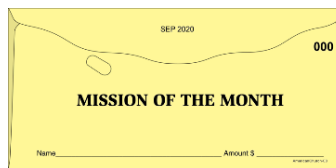
Mailing Address:

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

Special Offering Envelopes –

There are three special offering envelopes for January

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.



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

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Elders

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Marissa Lombardo
Linda Murphy

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