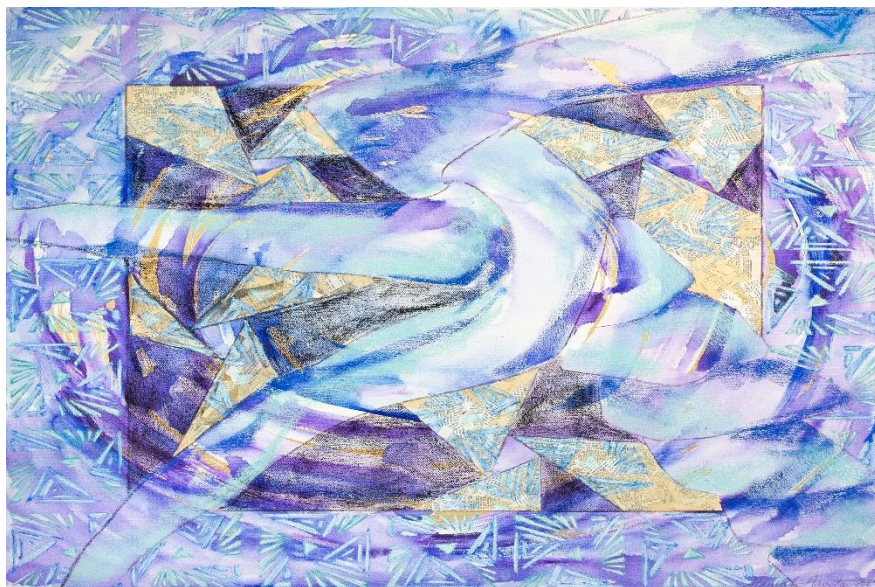


**The Second Sunday of Advent
Words for the Beginning
We can't go alone**

**December 8, 2024
Worship – 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

FOR CONTEMPLATION

Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16

PRELUDE “Still, Still, Still”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Melody York

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Members of the Creation Care and Stewardship Committee. Lou Ann Connelly, Kyrra Howard, and Ellen Buono.

INTROIT “Come and Find Your Quiet Center”

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world that is lonely,
we will save a seat for you.

In a world that is anxious,
we will light candles against the gloom.

In a world that is weary,
we will sing songs of joy and truth.

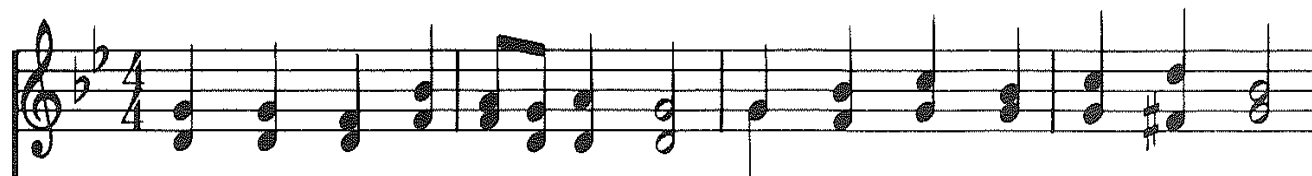
I am not alone.
We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.
Light the candles! Sing with joy!
We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

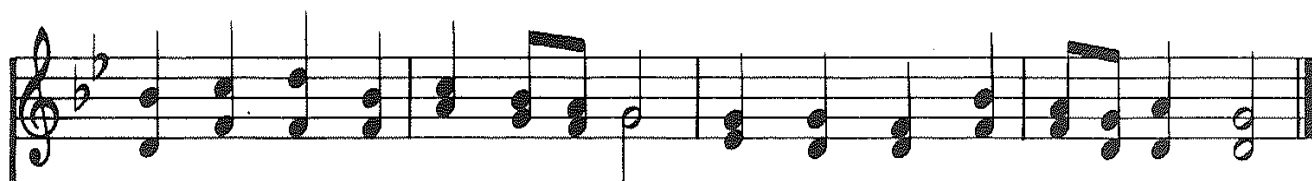
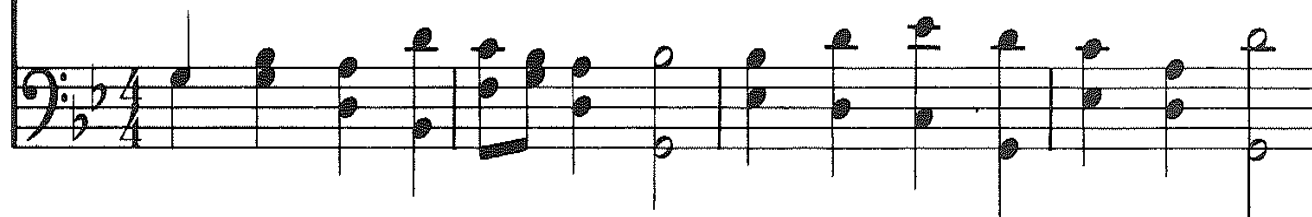
* HYMN 138 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Savior of the Nations, Come 138

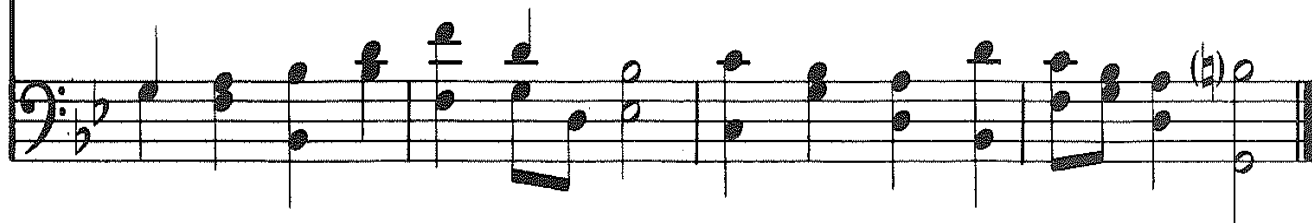
... that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. Ps. 67:2



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, show your - self the Vir - gin's son.
2. Not by hu - man power or seed did the wom - an's womb con - ceive;
3. Christ laid down his maj - es - ty, passed thro' dark Geth - sem - a - ne;
4. Christ in glo - ry, in - ter - cede for your crea - tures' suf - fering need;
5. Praise to you, O Lord, we sing; praise to Christ, our new - born King!



Fill with won - der, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.
 on - ly by the Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.
 though he left his Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.
 let your res - ur - rect - ing power soon com - plete the vic - tory hour.
 With the Fa - ther, Spir - it, one, let your last - ing king - dom come.



WORDS: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th C.; German version, Martin Luther, 1523;
 tr. Calvin Seerveld, 1984

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
 7.7.7.7.

MUSIC: *Enchiridia*, Erfurt, 1524; harm. Seth Calvisius, 1594

Words © Calvin Seerveld

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a with-us God:
a God who walks with us in the valley,
dances with us on the mountaintop,
sings with us through the night
and rejoices in the morning.

We believe that this with-us God
wired us for relationship,
saying to creation on the very first week,
“Humans should not be alone.”

Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,
we strive to live like the Trinity—
connected, united, and centered.
We believe in the power of community.
We commit to learning each other’s names.
We choose to journey with each other,
like Ruth with Naomi.
And we remember that no one can go through life alone.
Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Into My Heart” (3 times)

*Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

I have tried to make my own way.
I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle
my own faith.
I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own.
But the days are long and I am forgetful.
I need your help. Can you remind me?

**We will remind you of this everlasting truth:
You are not alone.
Where you go, God goes.
You are held in grace.
Trust in this good news.**

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**Now we need your help.
We, too, have tried to make our own way.
We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses,
to kindle our own faiths.
We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on
our own.
But the days are long and we are forgetful.
We need your help. Can you remind us?**

**I will remind you of this everlasting truth:
You are not alone.
Where you go, God goes.
You are held in grace.
Trust in this good news.**

**Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.
Alleluia! Amen.**

TAIZE RESPONSE - “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Verse 1

***1 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.***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Vicki Lane

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.

ANTHEM "Advent Hymn"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

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

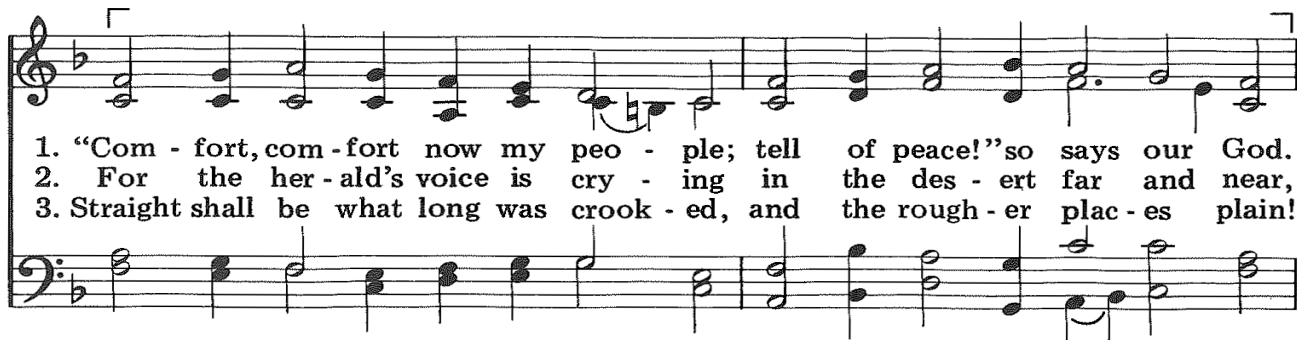
THE MORNING MESSAGE - "We Can't Go Alone"



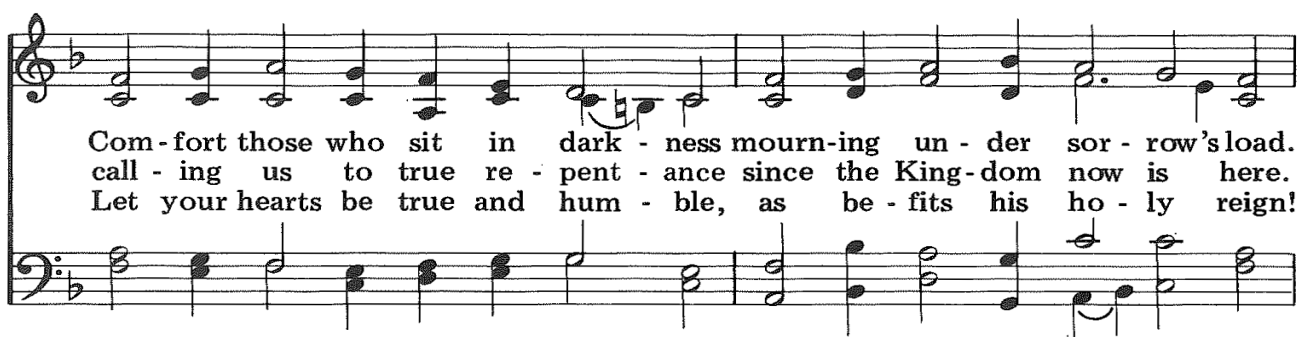
HYMN 132 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

132 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

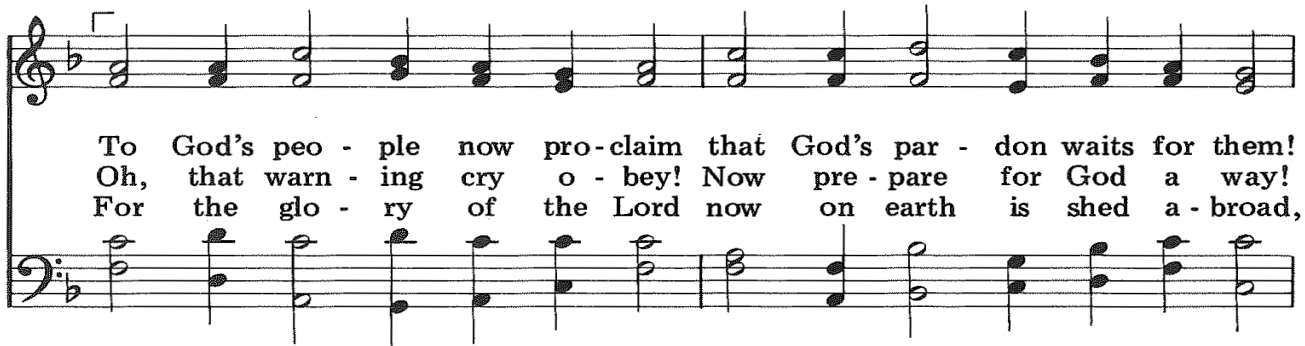
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Is. 40:1



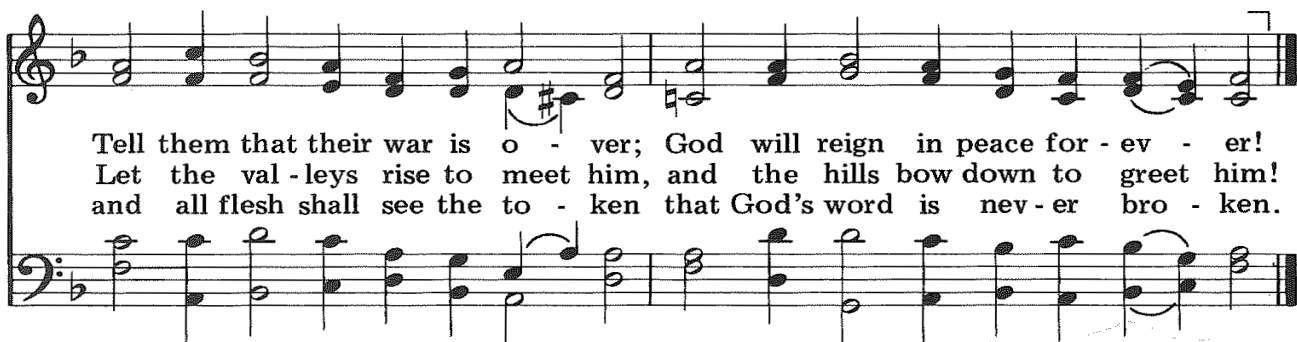
1. "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" so says our God.
2. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3. Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pent - ance since the King - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

WORDS: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564

GENEVAN 42-
8.7.8.7.7.8.8.

***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.*

POSTLUDE “Sing We Now of Christmas”

All of the liturgical resources for our Advent and Christmas worship theme, “Words for the Beginning” are used with permission from “A Sanctified Art LLC” and have been adapted from those prepared by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Leader
Mark Kaercher

Music Director
Ben April

Elder of the Day
Melody York

Choir
Tina-Marie Bottini
Michelle Braungard
Kaaren Haushalter

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls

Liturgist
Vicki Lane

Pam Izzo
Donna Leary
Marissa Lombardo

Children’s Message
Vicki Lane

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Welcome Host/Coffee Hour Host
Beth Colbert

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

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Savior of the Nations, Come

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Version, Martin Lauther, 1523;
tr. Calvin Seerveld, 1984
Music: Enchiridia, Erfurt, 1524;
harm. Seth Calvisius, 1594
Words: © Calvin Seerveld
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I Belong to You, O God

Words & Music: Bruce Cornwell,
harmonized by Benjamin April
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Benjamin April

Advent Hymn

Words & Music: Christy Nockels,
arr. Marty Parks © 2016 and this arr. ©
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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
@ 2021 Benjamin April
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Sing We Now of Christmas

Music: Joachim Neander, arr. Joel Raney
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From the Three

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Acrylic painting with mixed media on canvas At the end of this Ecclesiastes text, we read that the threefold cord is not easily broken. I had a piece of twine, which when I pulled it apart, broke into four sections. I sistered two into one, making three. I filmed myself pulling apart and re-weaving the twine. Then I drew this quilt square design from the still images in my video.

I dislike the final energy in the central motif of this artwork. It feels discordant. Perhaps that's the point. When I read this scripture, it seems to focus on strength—but in the rope itself, I find weakness. It was so easy to unravel the cord and create weakness. Its strength lies in the weave, in the interwoven fibers coming together.

Without that interweaving, the fibers are weak.

As I continue to watch our communities come together and splinter apart, it is always through the aspirational and the altruistic that the re-weaving begins. This discordant quilt square calls us to sit in the tension of the in-between, to weave our lives together rather than pulling them apart. And yet, I hate it, the asymmetry of it all. I want the art, the community, and the collective life to be simple, symmetrical, and full of order. But in Ecclesiastes, our practical God emphasizes that two are better than one and three are stronger than two. A three-ply cord isn't easily broken. This offers a very trinitarian way forward in the messy, interwoven, beautiful, and powerful collective.

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

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.

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

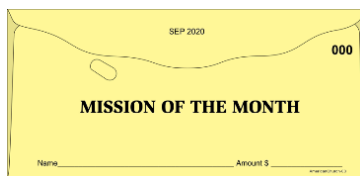
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

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

December Special Offering Envelopes –



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell
crccsandy@gmail.com

and

Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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