



First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 8, 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

“The radical and mysterious and dangerous thing the Spirit does has always been to form us into the body of Christ.”

~ Nadia Bolz-Weber

PRELUDE “Mary, Did You Know?”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Ana Crosbourn

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE –

INTROIT “How Shall I Come Before the Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?
To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Jesus says: Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me.

The Spirit says, “Come.” Let each one who hears the Spirit say, “Come,” for all are welcome here.

Let us worship God!



* HYMN “Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain:
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have
 heard you call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you
 lead me. I will hold uour peo - ple in mu heart.

*RESPONSIVE READING

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

God our Center, we are grateful for Your presence within and among us. May all that we are and do arise from our love for you.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

God our Comfort, be with all whose hearts are filled with grief. Let Christ's peace uphold them. May we bear with them the burden of sorrow, and bring to them faith's message of hope.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

God our Inspiration, may we have the mind of Christ as we relate to one another. Let love be our guide, and reconciliation our desire. May people of every color and class, age and ability, sexual and gender orientation be truly welcomed and valued among us.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

God our Advocate, let our righteousness be born, not of arrogance, but of yearning to do Your good will. May we hunger for churches where all belong, where diversity of humanity and unity in Christ create community and promote justice. May we thirst for right relationship with You and all our neighbors.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

God our Refreshment, as Your forgiveness restores us, so may we offer the blessing of restoration to those who wrong us, and accept it from those we have wronged. Help us to find our way when the paths of justice and compassion seem to diverge. Give us hearts ever open to mercy's possibilities.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

God our Hope, plant deep in us the longing for a world where children do not suffer at the hands of adults, where lovers' quarrels do not end in violence, where nations do not battle. May we pray peace, make peace, live peace. Amen.

By Rev. Ann B. Day

***TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Bless the Lord" (3 times)**

***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are a pilgrim people, accompanied by our God, who journeys beside us, accepting who we are; yet goes before us, beckoning us toward who we might become.

But as we move through our days, other gods call to us, questions confound us, direction blurs, indifference lulls; we lose our way.

So, we enter into silence, to discern again the nearness of God, who is our hope and guide. We can trust God at all times, for the Holy One is our refuge and our salvation! So, with confidence, let us pour out a shared confession of our hearts.

We confess to You, steadfast God, that we wander from the path of love upon which we are meant to walk. Fears divide us, prejudice hardens us, violence destroys us.

But God eternally beckons.

We turn our hearts again to You, God of grace and mercy. Forgive us love that is self-satisfied, and teach us love that is self- and other-affirming. Forgive us faith that makes us rush to judgment, and give us faith that fills us with compassion. Forgive us peace we have made with our divisions, and unite us in peace that passes understanding. We pray, with thanksgiving, in the name of Christ. Amen.

By God's mercy, our feet are set again upon the path of faithfulness; our hearts are set again upon the coming of God's realm.

Thanks be to God, our hope and our guide forever!

By Rev. Ann B. Day

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Come, O Lord & Set us Free" (3 times)

***Come, O Lord, and set us free;
Give your people peace.
Come, O Lord, and set us free;
Come, Lord Jesus, come.***

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God, who made me in Your image, teach me to love myself as You love me.

God, who made me in Your image, allow me to show that image to the world.

God, who made me in Your image, help me to see Your image in all those I meet.

God, who made me in Your image, teach me to conserve and protect all Your creation.

God, who made me in Your image, bless, protect, and keep me and all Your children safe.

The One who breathed life into our lungs continues to be present with us. God, who has made us reflective of God's own image, has forgiven us all and made us new creations. Therefore, since our sins are forgiven, let us go forth with love and peace, honoring and upholding the dignity of all we meet, knowing we see reflections of God's image all around.

Thanks be to God.

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.

ANTHEM "Let the Church Rise"

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 2:11-22

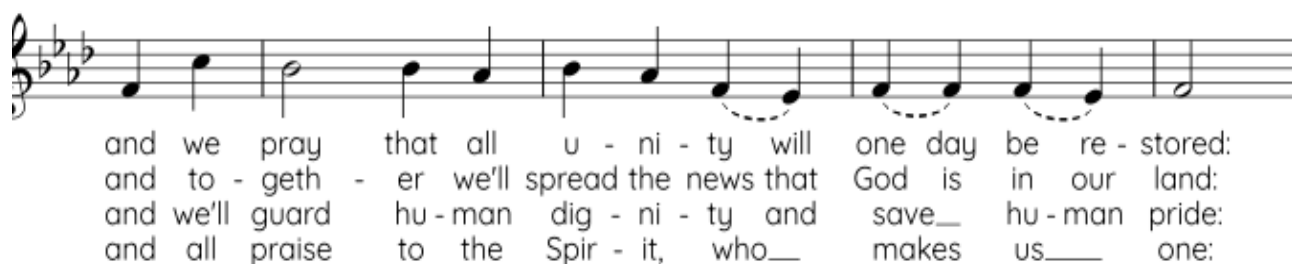
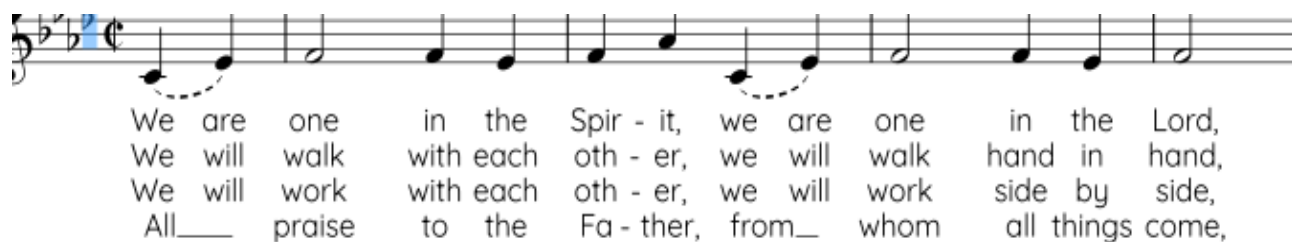
So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

THE MORNING MESSAGE “From ‘They’ to ‘We’”



*HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"



*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 Leaders

Minister of Word and
Sacrament

**Rev. Bruce K.
Cornwell**

Elder of the Day
Ana Crosbourne

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Liturgist
Karl Coté

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Director of Music
Ministries
Ben April

Soloist
Marv Helf

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
Mike York

Video Technician
Alex Huiest

Welcome Host
Marv Kaercher

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The Irish Blessing

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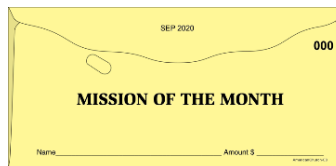
Mailing Address:

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 crcclori@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
Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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CONSISTORY

Elders

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Ana Crosbourn
Marissa Lombardo
Linda Murphy

Deacons

Kevin Bottini
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Jessica Kaercher



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