

# The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 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

“And he bore such affliction—our affliction—for us . . . The Lord took my despair and fashioned a canvas for his perfect work. Just as Christ raised Lazarus so that others might believe, so he redeems suffering—the gunshot wounds, the mourning, the lost jobs, the despondency beside bridge railings—for his glory.”

~ Kathryn L. Butler

PRELUDE “Lead Me to the Cross”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Linda Murphy

## THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

INTROIT "Holy Ground"

### CALL TO WORSHIP

In every dark and shadowed valley

***you are there, Divine Spirit.***

Every beam of light and warmth

***is a manifestation of you, Great Mystery.***

In every dead end we may face

***you stand with us, Holy One.***

Every open door of possibility

***is a gift from you, Wisdom of the Ages.***

When all we can see is grey despair,

and when hope fills our world with color

***your creative Spirit moves within and  
around us, your word brings life out  
of chaos,***

***and your presence sustains us, Lover of All.***

***As we turn to you again***

***in this moment of worship,***

***may we know your resilience***

***and courage,***

***and may we open our minds, hearts, souls, and***

***bodies to your reign, O God.***

***Amen.***



\* HYMN "Jesus Is A Rock in a Weary Land"

*Refrain:*



Je-sus is a rock in a wea-ry land, a wea-ry land, a wea-ry land; my Je



- sus is a rock in a wea-ry land, a shal-ter in the time of storm.

*Verses:*



No one can do like Je - sus, not a mum-bling word he said:\_\_\_  
 When Je-sus was on earth\_\_\_\_\_ the\_ flesh was ver - y weak;\_\_\_  
 Yon-der comes my Sav - ior,\_\_\_ him\_ whom I love so well;\_\_\_



he went walk - ing down to Laz - a - rus' grave, and he  
 he took a towel and gird - ed him - self\_\_\_ and he  
 he has the pam of vic - to - ry\_\_\_ and the



raised him\_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.\_\_\_\_\_  
 washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.\_\_\_\_\_  
 key of\_\_\_\_\_ death and hell.\_\_\_\_\_

\* RESPONSIVE READING

God, we know suffering is part of life,  
 as much as we want to deny it, ignore it,  
 or hide away from it.

***May we remember to make space  
 to shake our fists, to cry,  
 to express our pain however we need to,  
 and may we remember that this process  
 can't be rushed.***

When we come out on the other side  
we will be a little stronger, wiser,  
and able to be with those who are still hurting.

***May we offer help in hard times  
through our gentleness, our compassion,  
our companionship, and our love.***

***May those who are still hurting  
know that there is light in the darkness,  
there is hope, there is healing,  
and there is life to be found  
even in the suffering.***

God, your breath of life surrounds us,  
your creativity flows through us,  
your light still flickers inside us.

***May we remember all the moments of hope,  
compassion and joy.***

***May we take a moment to look up from the pain  
and hold on to these flickers of life.***

You have filled the universe with mysteries,  
beauty and complexity, but  
also with small, everyday joys.

***Thank you for the simple gifts of life around us,  
for the birds' song,  
for the gentle, refreshing rain,  
for the revitalizing breeze,  
for the warmth of the midday sun.***

***We celebrate these small joys!***

***As we remember these things,  
we choose to resist all that  
dehumanizes us in these hard times  
and to embrace all that restores  
and celebrates our common humanity.***

***Amen.***

**\*TAIZÉ MEDITATION “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” (3 times)**

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful  
In the Lord I will rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices the Lord is near,  
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God, your breath was present at the very beginning,  
bringing forth life.

*We praise you for the life  
that runs through every created thing.*

Since the very beginning life has burst forth  
and filled the universe with its abundance.

*We praise you for the creativity  
that was born in that first moment.*

When we look around we are overwhelmed  
by the diversity, complexity and beauty  
around us.

*We praise you for the light that  
fills our small planet.*

But we know that light needs darkness,  
and life needs death,  
but that new life always follows.

*It's easy to want only the good, only the light,  
we don't like dealing with the darkness and grief.*

*But sometimes we are forced to,  
through no fault of our own,  
and we're thrown into the darkness  
which feels so overwhelming  
and all-consuming.*

In these moments of suffering  
all we can see is shadow and sadness;  
we feel like all light has been drained from us.

*But you are still there  
and so there is a glimmer of light  
in the darkness, God—  
we see it!  
And we move slowly toward it,  
slowly, but deliberately.  
Amen.*

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Lord Jesus Christ” (3 times)

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Jerry Kallner

DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Kevin Ingalls

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 “Eternal Light”

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and

Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### **THE MORNING MESSAGE "Hard-Wired For Hope"**





\*HYMN 638 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

# Precious Lord, Take My Hand 638

... and lead me in the way everlasting. Ps. 139:24

1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am  
 2. When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near, when my  
 3. When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draws near, and the

tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the  
 life is al-most gone; hear my cry, hear my  
 day is past and gone, at the riv-er I

night, lead me on to the light: Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.  
 call, hold my hand lest I fall: Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.  
 stand, guide my feet, hold my hand: Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

WORDS and MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

Copyright © 1938 Hill & Range Songs, Inc. Copyright Renewed, assigned to Unichappell Music, Inc.  
 (Rightsong Music, Publisher) Used by permission of Hal Leonard Corporation

PRECIOUS LORD  
 6.6.9.6.6.9.

## \*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.*

The Call to Worship, the Responsive Reading and the Prayer of Confession  
Were written by John van de Laar

| Worship Leaders  | Choir   | Copyright Licenses   |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Minister of Word and<br>Sacrament<br><b>Rev. Bruce K.<br/>Cornwell</b> | <b>Tina-Marie Bottini<br/>Michelle Braungard<br/>Maggie George<br/>Kaaren Haushalter<br/>Marvin Helf<br/>Kevin Ingalls<br/>Pam Izzo<br/>Marissa Lombardo<br/>Lisa McGee</b> | <b>Lead Me to the Cross</b><br>Words & Music: Brooke<br>Ligertwood © 2004<br>Hillsong Music<br>Publishing<br>Used by Permission.<br>CCLI License # 21149226  | <b>Lord Jesus Christ</b><br>Text: Psalm 139; Taizé<br>Community<br>Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-<br>1994<br>© 1998, Les Presses de Taizé,<br>GIA Publications, Inc., agent<br>Used by Permission:<br>A-719501 One License   |
| Elder of the Day<br><b>Linda Murphy</b>                                | <b>Technical Director<br/>Cameron Kaercher</b>  | <b>Holy Ground</b><br>Words & Music: Geron<br>Davis<br>© 1983 Meadowgreen<br>Music Co. and<br>Songchannel Music Co.<br>Used by Permission.<br>CCLI License # 21149226  | <b>Eternal Light</b><br>Words: Alcuin, paraphrased by<br>Christopher M. Idle<br>© 1982 Jubilate Hymns<br>Music: Benjamin April<br>© 2023 Benjamin April<br>Used by Permission: CCLI<br>License # 21149226                   |
| Deacon of the Day<br><b>Kevin Ingalls</b>                              | <b>Sound Technician<br/>Mike York</b>   | <b>Jesus Is A Rock in a<br/>Weary Land (3074)</b><br>Words & Music: African<br>American Spiritual, arr.<br>Wyatt Tee Walker © 2004<br>Wyatt Tee Walker.<br>Used by Permission.<br>A-719501 One License   | <b>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</b><br>Words & Music: Thomas A.<br>Dorsey, 1938<br>© 1938 Warner-Tamerlane<br>Publishing Corp. (Admin. by<br>CURB   Word Music Publishing)<br>Used by Permission: CCLI<br>License # 21149226 |
| Liturgist<br><b>Mark Kaercher</b>                                      | <b>Video Technician<br/>Alex Huiest</b>   | <b>In the Lord I'll be Ever<br/>Thankful</b><br>Contributors: Jacques<br>Berthier, Taizé<br>Community<br>Tune: © 1986, 1991, Les<br>Presses de Taizé, GIA<br>Publications, Inc., agent<br>Text: © 1986, 1991, Les<br>Presses de Taizé, GIA<br>Publications, Inc., agent<br>Used by Permission.<br>A-719501 One License | <b>The Irish Blessing</b><br>Words: Traditional<br>Music: Benjamin April<br>© 2021 Benjamin April<br>Used by Permission. Benjamin<br>April  |
| Children's Message<br><b>Jerry Kallner</b>                             | <b>Welcome Host<br/>Jessica Kaercher</b>  |  |   |
| Director of Music<br>Ministries<br><b>Ben April</b>                    |   |  |   |
| Soloists<br><b>Ben April</b>   |   |  |   |

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

**Website:**

[www.communityreformedchurch.com](http://www.communityreformedchurch.com)

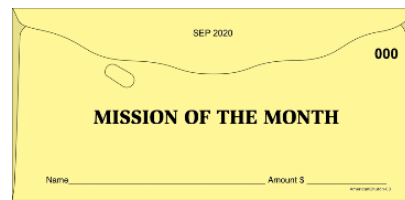
**Mailing Address:**

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

**Special Offering Envelopes –**

**The special offering envelope for March.**

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](mailto: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

**Online Church Bulletin Board**

[padlet.com/crccsarah.ChurchBulletinBoard](http://padlet.com/crccsarah.ChurchBulletinBoard)



## Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell  
[crccsandy@gmail.com](mailto:crccsandy@gmail.com)  
Karen Latta  
[kmlatta@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kmlatta@nycap.rr.com)

## COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

### STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

**Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell, Pastor**  
[BruceKCornwell@gmail.com](mailto:BruceKCornwell@gmail.com)

**Ben April, Director of Music Ministries**  
[benapril27@gmail.com](mailto:benapril27@gmail.com)

**Sarah Huiest, Youth  
Coordinator &  
Communication/Media Coordinator**  
[crccsarah@gmail.com](mailto:crccsarah@gmail.com)

**Lori Coté**  
Church Administrator  
[crccclori@gmail.com](mailto:crccclori@gmail.com)

**Cameron Kaercher**  
Technical Director  
[camkaercher@gmail.com](mailto:camkaercher@gmail.com)

### CONSISTORY

#### Elders

Karl Coté  
Ana Crosbourne  
Marissa Lombardo  
Linda Murphy

#### Deacons

Kevin Bottini  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Jessica Kaercher



701 Sand Creek Road, Colonie, NY 12205  
Telephone: 518-869-5589

Website - [www.communityreformedchurch.com](http://www.communityreformedchurch.com)  
Facebook - [facebook.com/coloniereformed](https://facebook.com/coloniereformed)  
Twitter - @ColonieReformed