



The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



August 8, 2021

Order of Worship
9:00 am

Please tune your radio to station 88.9 FM

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

"I am who I am, and my label is not a box."

~ Jake Hallar

PRELUDE "Will the Circle Be Unbroken"
"Wade in the Water"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

INTROIT "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 139:13-18 (The Message)

Oh yes, you shaped me first
inside, then out; you formed me
in my mother's womb.

***I thank you, High God—
you're breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am
marvelously made!***

I worship in adoration—what a creation!

You know me inside and out,
you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made,
bit by bit, how I was sculpted from
nothing into something.

***Like an open book, you watched me
grow from conception to birth; all the
stages of my life were spread out
before you,
The days of my
life all prepared
before I'd even
lived one day.***

Your thoughts—how rare,
how beautiful! God, I'll never
comprehend them!

I couldn't even begin to count them—
any more than I could count the sand of the sea.

Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you!

HYMN 532- "Be Thou My Vision (532)"

SLANE

***I Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art--
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

*2 Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.*

*3 High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.*

THE RESPONSIVE READING

What miraculous creatures we are!

What amazing bodies you have given us, God!

What wonderful capacities you have placed within us,
for intimacy, connection, and creativity!

We praise you and thank you for the gift of our bodies and ourselves!

What wonderful beings we are!

What amazing hearts you have given us, God!

What wonderful capacities you have placed within us
for relationship, friendship, companionship,
and love!

We praise and thank you for the gift of our hearts and ourselves!

But in spite of the wonder of our humanity,
we have rejected the beauty and sacredness of our bodies;
we have judged and rejected certain kinds of love;
and we have fallen into believing that our sexuality
and our spirituality are separate and unrelated.

***Forgive us for calling bad what you call good,
and for alienating ourselves from the beautiful bodies
you have given us.***

Creator God,

***Reconnect us with our bodies, identities,
and capacity for love and intimacy;
and give us generous and accepting hearts
for the sexuality of our neighbors.***

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord” (3 times)

*Sing, praise and bless the Lord.
Sing, praise and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, who sculpted us to love and be loved,
and who designed our bodies for intimacy
we recognize that we have not used your gifts well;
We have condemned and done violence to ourselves
and to one another
by our judgments, our negativity toward our sexuality,
and by our silence in the face of injustice.

And so:

*We pray for ourselves, that we may learn to value our physicality
and may learn to enjoy our sexuality in healthy
and life-giving ways.*

*We pray for those who have been used and betrayed
and for whom intimacy is filled with pain and regret
that they may receive comfort and restoration.*

*We pray for those who have suffered violence
at the hands of lovers and partners that
they may find healing and safety.*

*We pray for those who find themselves alone and feeling unloved
that they may find love within themselves
and relationships of mutual care and companionship.*

Show us how to live and love with respect for one another’s dignity
and humanity with a commitment to mutuality and consent,
and with the joy and freedom that comes from
a positive relationship with our bodies and sexuality.

*And may we embody the values of love and justice
that Christ lived and taught.*

Amen.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ~ Vicki Lane

DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Linda Murphy

CALL TO OFFERING

Christ who loved us and gave himself up for us invites us to live in love.

May God’s Spirit strengthen us to witness to Christ’s love in all we do and say.

Let us offer our gifts to God.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

PayPal:

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Mailing Address:

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

OUR PRAISE TO GOD (THE DOXOLOGY)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

THE DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

We celebrate the opportunity to share what we have with those who have needs. Bless these gifts, O God, and our lives as we offer them as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

ELDER'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ~ Marissa Lombardo

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 Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

THE MORNING MESSAGE "Just Sexuality"

HYMN "In Christ Alone"

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

BENEDICTION

THE FOURFOLD AMEN

STAINER

Minister of Word and Sacrament
Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell

Director of Music Ministries
Benjamin April

Children's Message
Vicki Lane

Soloist
Marv Helf

Deacon of the Day
Linda Murphy

Elder of the Day
Marissa Lombardo

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Lori Coté

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Will the Circle Be Unbroken

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Music: Charles H. Gabriel
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Wade in the Water

Traditional African-American Spiritual
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Come and Find the Quiet Center

Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Music: B.F. White
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“Be Thou My Vision”

Hymn 532
Words: Mary E. Byrne (1905), Eleanor H. Hull
Music: Traditional Irish hymn, Donald P. Hustad
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The Worshiping Church Hymnal

“Sing, Praise and Bless The Lord”

Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé
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“Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free”

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