



The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



January 23, 2022

Order of Service
10:00 am

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

"Music attempts to express what cannot be said about something on which it is impossible to remain silent."

~ Victor Hugo

PRELUDE "We Are the Body of Christ"

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Welcome
Announcements

THE ELDER'S PRAYER – Karl Côté

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “Make Me a Servant”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

If the world was random, it would make no sense to try and make sense of it,

***to plan and pray,
to work and hope
to seek a way forward through the struggles we face.***

If the world was random,
***there would be no reason,
no purpose,
no possibility;***

But, however random it may, at times, appear, Jesus, this world is not random,

but filled with the liberating purpose of God;
this we believe;
to this we commit.

And so, wherever people have lost faith, lost hope, meaning or purpose,

***through their own misdirected choice,
the world's unfortunate circumstance,
or other people's malevolent actions,***
in our worship this day, we ask you to reveal your grace and salvation,
***and guide us all into the way,
that gives us a way forward.***

Let us worship God.

HYMN "I Come With Joy"

*1 I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall,
his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.*

*2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.*

*3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.*

*4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
his presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known;
we see and praise him here,
we see and praise him here.*

*5 Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise,
we'll live and speak his praise.*

THE RESPONSIVE READING

Though it may seem to us that evil spreads like a virus, though it may feel naïve to resist it, we choose to believe that your spirit's fruit can satisfy a world that hungers for healing. And so: Wherever hatred and suspicion divide people and fragment communities,
we will pass on love.

Wherever sorrow and cynicism leave the dark stain of despair,
we will pass on joy.

Wherever violence and abuse shatter lives and destroys the earth,
we will pass on peace.

Wherever expediency and the quest for quick fixes create confusion and need,

we will pass on patience.

Wherever heartlessness and selfishness cause loneliness and exclusion,

we will pass on kindness.

Wherever evil and darkness steal away hope and integrity,

we will pass on goodness.

Wherever aggression and coercion remove freedom and playfulness,

we will pass on gentleness.

Wherever self-interest and shallowness undermine relationships and stability,

we will pass on faithfulness.

Wherever lawlessness and carelessness generate chaos and fear,

we will pass on self-control.

Though it may take our best energy and our most enduring commitment, we pray for the courage and the faith to answer your call, to resist whatever devils we may face, and to pass on your abundant life.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Blessing & Praise” (3 times)

***Blessing and praise be given,
Blessing and praise be given
To Christ who comes, who comes for us,
Comes in the name of the Lord.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Kingdom of God is at hand – You proclaimed it, Jesus; but, it often feels like it’s a million miles away. You demonstrated its grace and showed its power, but the signs often appear faded or absent in our world.

We need Your Kingdom to come, O God, in all its fullness and in all its glory. This waiting, this “now and not yet” experience of Your reign is hard and frustrating. – and so, we pray for Your Kingdom to be

revealed in our lives, turning our sickness and sin, our brokenness and fear into friendship and compassion, wholeness and joy.

May Your Kingdom come to us now.

We pray for Your Kingdom to be revealed in our neighborhoods, turning our division and suspicion, our judgment and our competition into fellowship and care, compassion and service.

May Your Kingdom come to us now.

We pray for Your Kingdom to be revealed in our world, turning our war and our disparities, our consumption and our self-interest into peace and collaboration, stewardship and reverence.

May Your Kingdom come to us now.

Your Kingdom is here, and it is coming, O God. Make us faithful heralds of its message and tireless practitioners of its ways. For Jesus sake.

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “The Kingdom of God” (3 times)

***The Kingdom of God is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us
the gates of your kingdom.***

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Melody York

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 “Mighty to Save”

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

THE MORNING MESSAGE "Enter Zion With Singing"

HYMN "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, 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 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.*

Minister of Word and Sacrament
Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell

Director of Music Ministries
Benjamin April

Soloists
Kevin Ingalls

Elder of the Day
Karl Côté

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Children's Message
Melody York

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Video Technician
Lori Côté

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arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977
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Blessing & Praise

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Mighty to Save

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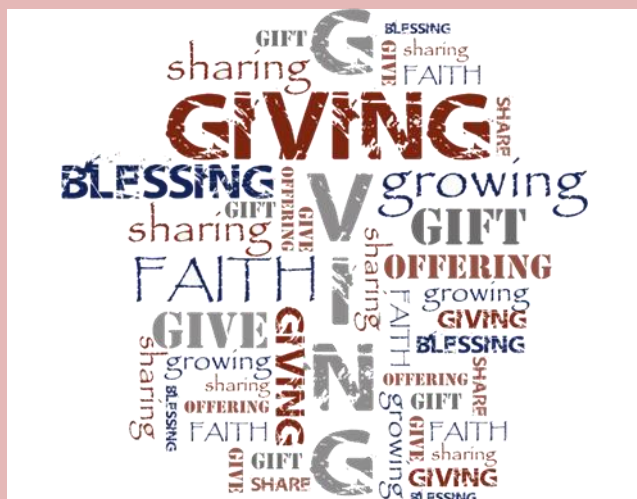
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The Irish Blessing

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Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Today, Sunday School for children in grades 3-6 meets in the Gathering Room from 9:00 to 9:45 am.

Monday, January 24

"Shirley's Shawls - the prayer shawl ministry of the Community Reformed Church of Colonie will meet via Zoom at 6:00 pm on Monday, January 24th. Members of the group will receive an email invitation.

Anyone interested in being part of this ministry is welcome to join us. Please contact Linda Murphy with any questions (518-368-8155).

Tuesday, January 25

The Gathering Zoom Devotions – 4:00 to 4:30 pm

Tuesday, January 25

Book Group Meeting, 6-8PM, at the church. Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte will be discussed. Future selections have not yet been made, and suggestions are always welcome. Questions? Contact Karen Reynolds.

Thursday, January 27

The Gathering Zoom Devotions – 6:30 to 7:00 pm

The Wired Word Bible Study – 7:00-8:00pm

Friday, January 28 7:30-8:30 pm
Al-Anon meets in the Gathering Room.

Men's Group - Due to the rise in local Covid cases, the Men's Group dinner scheduled for January 26th will be postponed until a later date.

Sunday School Teacher - We are in need of a Sunday school teacher for children in grades 3-6. There is a curriculum for you to follow. If interested, please speak to Sarah Huiest (crccsarah@gmail.com).

ZOOM

To join in Devotions, The Wired Word and Sunday Worship via Zoom, use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6880887155>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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CONSISTORY

Elders

Karl Côté
Ana Crosbourn
Marissa Lombardo
Linda Murphy

Deacons

Kevin Bottini
Ellen Buono
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell
crccsandy@gmail.com
Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday - Jeremiah 1:4-8
Tuesday - Jeremiah 1:9-10
Wednesday - Psalm 71:1-6
Thursday - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Friday - Luke 4:21-30
Saturday - Psalm 84
Sunday - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, no matter what I am facing today—
mourning or gladness, buying or selling—
help me to focus on you throughout it all.
Then bring me home safely to you. Amen..

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, thank you for the assurance
that I live forgiven and loved by you.
I need your grace and
want to share your grace with others.
As I face this night, help me to pour out my heart to you
and then rest in peace. Amen.



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