



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 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

“True generosity is an offering; given freely and out of pure love. No strings attached. No expectations.”

– Suze Orman

PRELUDE “In the Palm of your Hand”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Ana Crosbourne

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES -Melody York

INTROIT “Welcome You Here”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

It's a sad reality, God, but we have learned not to trust generosity.
Too many gifts come with hidden costs;
Too many offers seem generous at first glance,
but on deeper inspection are found to be self-serving;
And we are learning that our struggle to be truly,
unconditionally generous costs us far more than we realize.

*But with you we experience a different kind of generosity:
a giving not of stuff, but of self;
a sharing not just of things, but of life.
And we are discovering, little by little,
that we are enriched when we learn to give,
freely, extravagantly, and creatively,
as often and as unconditionally as we can.
And so now as we worship,
as we open ourselves again to your generous grace and
love,
teach us to embody your self-giving generosity
in our own lives. Amen.*

*HYMN 115 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

*1 Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown!*

*2 Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*3 Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.*

***4 Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!***

***THE RESPONSIVE READING**

When it comes to generosity, we tend to think of it in terms of money, but Jesus you had a very different view of generosity.

***Thank you for showing us how to be generous,
for giving yourself completely to the vision of God's reign of
love,
for never holding back your forgiveness, kindness, or love.***

We have placed such importance on money, even though we talk about offering our time, talents and treasures.

This makes it easy for us to look at what others give and judge its value.

***But you have shown us that anything we do from a pure heart,
with good intentions,
reaching out to those around us,
offering healing where we can,
is celebrated by you as the purest of offerings.***

When we feel trapped in the scarcity mentality, we grip our fists tighter around the things we're afraid to lose, and we close ourselves off to those around us, afraid they'll ask for the things we hold so dear.

***Help us to see that when we each care for the one next to us,
all our needs will be met.***

***Soften our hearts to the needs of others,
and help us to respond generously.***

***May we be aware of the generosity around us,
giving thanks for all we have.***

***And may we share the goodness we have,
with those around us.***

Amen.

***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 PRAISE AND CONFESSION

If we’re honest, we can see how our wealth has become a tool of manipulation,

we have used it to control situations and people.

We are sorry for putting conditions on our generosity.

We have also found it so easy to judge someone else’s offering, either getting angry at their wastefulness or feeling that their offering isn’t nearly as good as ours.

*We are sorry for judging,
and not celebrating the offerings our neighbors bring.*

Yet you never look at our offerings with such judgement, instead you welcome every part we are willing to give you, even if sometimes it doesn’t seem like much.

*We are grateful that you celebrate our offerings,
and welcome them with open arms.*

There are so many examples of irrepressible generosity in the world around us,

if we would just open our hearts and eyes.

Thank you for each of those experiences where we have seen firsthand the generosity of those who have so little.

*May we learn from these moments,
and open our hearts to notice the generosity in the world around us.*

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Come and Fill our Hearts” (3 times)

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
Alleluia!*

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 5:17

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Melody York

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Marv Helf

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 “Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

THE MORNING MESSAGE “Genuine Generosity”

***HYMN 532** “Be Thou My Vision”

*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.*

***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.*

Worship Leader/Elder of the Day
Ana Crosbourne

Deacon of the Day
Marv Helf

Soloist
Ron Smith

Liturgist/Children's Message
Melody York

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
John Lombardo

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Bless the Lord

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Come and Fill Our Hearts

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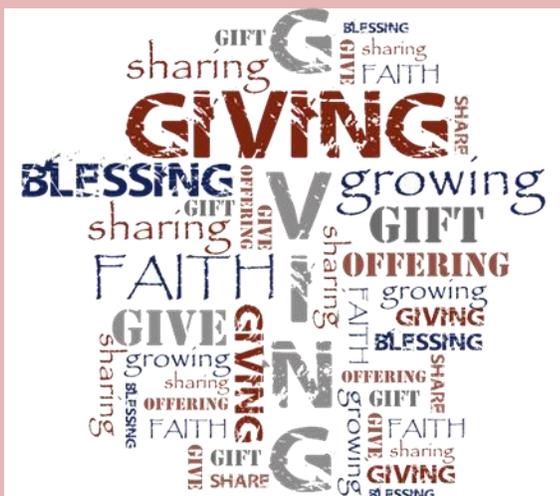
Be Thou My Vision

Words: Traditional Irish Hymn, c. 8th C.;
tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905,
vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912
Music: Traditional Irish melody;
arr. Donald P. Hustad, 1973
Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company
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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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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.

Tuesday, April 5

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

Thursday, April 7

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

Friday, April 8

Al-Anon - 7:30-8:30 pm meets in the Gathering Room.

Camp Fowler – It's not too early to plan for summer 2022. If any children are interested in attending Camp Fowler this summer, there are scholarships available. Contact Doris Neese at 518-456-6239 for further information.

Day Care Easter Candy Orders – if you ordered easter candy it is now available on the back table. Thank You for your support.



Paschal Parcel

Once again, we have prepared for you Pascal Parcels.
(Paschal is defined as relating to Easter).

Inside these bags will be palm crosses for Palm Sunday, communion elements for Good Friday. You will also find long pieces of ribbon for each person in your household. All are being asked to write their Easter hopes on the ribbons and return them to the church on or before April 10th. These will be affixed to the Easter Cross adorning our Sanctuary during the Easter Season.

This week Pascal Parcels are being distributed to every church family.

If you are worshipping in-person today, please pick up your parcel from the back table.

If you are worshipping online, your parcels will be dropped off early this week.

We are looking for a several people to be deliverers of the remaining parcels to the homes of our members during the week of April 3rd.

If you wish to lend a hand, please indicate your willingness to Bruce, brucekcornwell@gmail.com .



**April 15
7 PM**

Tenebrae, or "Service of Shadows," is one of the oldest traditions in the Christian church for the commemoration of the passion and death of Christ. Through scripture readings and hymns the story of Christ's betrayal, trial, and crucifixion is told. As the Passion story unfolds, candles are removed symbolizing the fleeing of the disciples. The darkness deepens, until only the Christ Candle remains.

This light is removed from the sanctuary representing Christ's crucifixion and death.

The Light of our Church returns in glory Easter morning.

Due to the somber intensity of this service, child care is provided for children 2nd grade and younger.

This service will also be live-streamed on Zoom.



The Lenten Cross which hangs behind the pulpit was created by our worshippers who participated in the Ash Wednesday service. On each slip of folded paper nailed to this cross we have privately acknowledged our separation from God. This cross is fashioned from a Christmas tree trunk symbolizing both the birth and death of our Lord.

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 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

Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell, Pastor
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Ben April, Director of Music
benapril27@gmail.com

**Sarah Huiest, Youth
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Communication/Media Coordinator**
crccsarah@gmail.com

**Lori Coté
Church Office &
Video Technician**
crccclori@gmail.com

CONSISTORY

Elders

Karl Coté
Ana Crosbourne
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 - Isaiah 50:4-9
Tuesday - Psalm 31:9-16
Wednesday - Philippians 2:5-11
Thursday - Luke 22:14-23:56
Friday - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Saturday - Luke 19:28-40
Sunday - Palm/Passion Sunday

Household Prayer: Morning

Merciful God, as I begin this day,
place in me a spirit of generosity
so that I may freely share love, joy,
and encouragement with those I encounter.
Keep me from quick judgments
so that I leave room for your grace in my life
and in the lives of others.
Make me your faithful disciple
in my words and in my actions,
as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

All through the day, Lord Jesus, you have been present.
As I settle into the routines of home and evening,
I long to be at home in my relationship with you.

Help me to put aside the cares of the day
and the worries of tomorrow

in order to fully enjoy the peace of your presence now.

I pray that your peace will also be with those I know
who have special need of your care tonight,
and I pray for those who lie down this night
without the safety of home or bed,
without enough food or resources.

Bring your light into the surrounding darkness
so that all of us may sleep in the security of your love. Amen.



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