



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021
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*

The greatest gift that you can give to others
is the gift of unconditional love and acceptance.

~ Brian Tracy

PRELUDE "Mary, Did You Know?"

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Welcome
Announcements

THE ELDER'S PRAYER ~ Marissa Lombardo

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Members of the Community Outreach Team

You have shown us that we can be the crazy ones, that there are no boxes to tick and criteria to meet with you.

There is great power in knowing our worth and claiming our place in the world.

We feel the freedom and healing that comes from being wholeheartedly accepted, and we embrace our capacity to accept and love one another.

We thank you for setting us free and showing us how to love as you have loved us.

There are so many people who feel rejected, unloved, and 'wrong' because of their difference.

May we show them that they are accepted and loved just as they are.

Some of us have learned to withhold our love in order to control or hurt others.

May our hearts grow soft and may we find ways to heal so that we can let go of the hurt and the need to control.

For those who grieve lost loves, lost moments, lost memories

May we offer them a presence of peace and light.

As we seek to love and be loved more freely, unconditionally, and wholeheartedly,

May we be reminded of your love and acceptance, and may we learn to love as you love us.

As we light this candle we express our longing for acceptance

And we cling to the love we find in Christ. Amen

INTROIT “Sanctuary”

CALL TO WORSHIP

We dream of a world where every God-beloved child is accepted for who they are.

But that is not yet our world.

We long for love to conquer fear and lead us to celebrate all the various ways our humanity is expressed.

But that is not yet our experience in this world.

Christ has come into our world with infinite love.

Christ is with us now pouring love into our hearts so it may overflow into our world.

Christ will continue to enter into the unloved places and people in our world until the entire globe is filled with love.

We cling to God’s love for us and we open ourselves to experience and share the acceptance of God. Amen.

HYMN 133 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.***

[Refrain:]

***Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave. (Refrain)***

***3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
and drive away the shades of night,
and pierce the clouds and bring us light! (Refrain)***

***4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. (Refrain)***

***5 O come, Desire of nations,
bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill all the world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)***

RESPONSIVE READING Luke 1:46-55

“The Magnificat”

**“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.”**

**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
*for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is
his name.***

**His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
*He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the
proud in the thoughts of their hearts.***

**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up
the lowly;
*he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich
away empty.***

**He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
*according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to
Abraham and to his descendants forever.”***

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

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

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

From the stars in the sky, to the flowers in the fields,
from the birds to the creatures on the ground,
and everything below the ocean waves,

***You have created the most diverse and complex universe,
God, and we become aware of that same complexity within
ourselves.***

You don't ask us to look a certain way, or believe certain things,
You love us, accept us, and celebrate all of our unique differences.

***We are grateful for your gift of love,
for knowing that you want us to express our individuality.***

Sometimes we don't offer that same acceptance to others,
we want them to fit into our boxes because anything else feels too
uncomfortable.

***We are sorry for not extending that love to everyone we meet,
and for making our love conditional.***

For the times when others have tried to love us but we have been too
caught up in our hurt or brokenness,

***We recognize that we failed to receive their love freely and
gratefully, and we want to be better at receiving.
May we be open to receiving your word for us today
Amen.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Holy Spirit Come to Us" (3 times)

***Holy Spirit, come to us,
Kindle in us the fire of your love
Holy Spirit, come to us,
Holy Spirit, come to us***

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS ~ Matthew 1:21

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ~ Melody York

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Ellen Buono

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 "The Little Drummer Boy" and "Peace on Earth"

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

THE MORNING MESSAGE "Be the One Person"

HYMN 155 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.*

*3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous Gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven!
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.*

*4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.*

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

Soloist
Marv Helf

Choir
**Tina-Marie Bottini
Michelle Braunguard
Maggie George
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Pam Izzo
Marissa Lombardo
Lisa McGee**

Elder of the Day
Marissa Lombardo

Deacon of the Day
Ellen Buono

Children’s Message
Melody York

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Addison York

The Lighting of the Advent Candles, The Call to Worship, the Prayer of Praise and Confession were written by John van de Laar

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Sanctuary

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 133
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Sing Praise & Bless the Lord

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Holy Spirit Come to Us

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Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth

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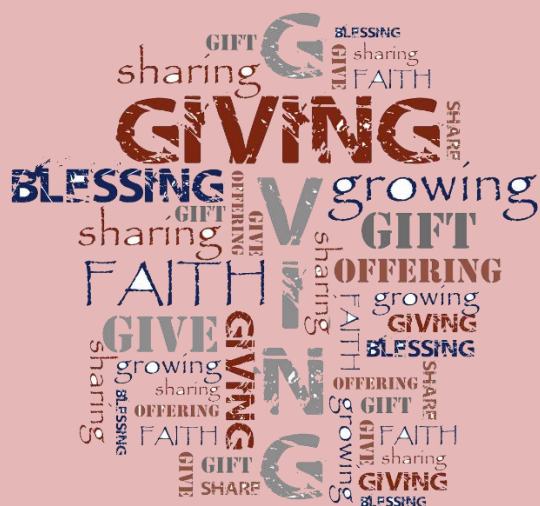
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks (1868)
Lewis H. Redner (1868)
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 155
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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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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 located near the exit.



PayPal:

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

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, December 21

The Gathering Zoom Devotions - 4 to 4:30 pm

Gathering Zoom

The Gathering Zoom devotions will not be taking place on December 23 – January 6th. They will be resume on January 11th.

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).

The Youth Group is collecting some items for Ronald McDonald House to be donated during Morning of Kindness on December 24th. Donations of cereal/granola bars, individual snack/chip bags, and individual boxes of cereal/oatmeal can be left in designated box at the back of the sanctuary. If you need your items picked up, please email Sarah Huiest (crccsarah@gmail.com).--

Aid for Tornado Relief – We will be collecting donations to send to Direct Relief. Direct Relief supports nonprofit health centers and charitable clinics in the affected area on an ongoing basis. They are mobilizing relief for tornado-damaged communities and are coordinating assistance for communities in multiple states affected by the deadly storms. You may donate with a check payable to CRCC with "Direct Relief" in the memo, envelope provided in your bulletin, or you may mail a check to the Church. To donate directly via this link: https://secure.directrelief.org/site/Donation2?df_id=2924&mfc_pref=T&2924.donation=form1

THE CHRISMON TREE



The Chrismon Tree: Chrismons are a type of Christmas tree decoration used in many churches and often in the homes of Christians. Chrismons (CHRIST MONogram) are tree ornaments that proclaim our Lord Jesus Christ through the use of symbols. The symbols used represent a variety of biblical and theological concepts that are well known among most believers. Most Chrismons are white with gold decorations of wire, beads, ribbon, and glitter. The white color is symbolic of the purity of Jesus and the gold represents the majesty of the newborn king. The paper chain that encircles our tree is a Thank You chain. Written on each little slip of paper are our personal words of thanks to our Lord.



Reminder:
If you have donated a
Poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary,
you may pick up your plant following our Christmas Eve service.



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

“For unto us a child is born and his name shall be called Wonderful.”

**Welcome the Christ Child in the
soft glow of candlelight**

7:00 PM

**Extended musical prelude before the worship will feature the many
gifts of our church family**

Pre-registration is requested for in-person attendance.

Register at,

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA92AA6FAC43-
december2](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA92AA6FAC43-december2)**

**For the safety of all, masks will be required.
This service will also be available on 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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Lori Coté
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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 - Micah 5:2-5
Tuesday - Psalm 80:1-3
Wednesday - Psalm 80:4-7
Thursday - Hebrews 10:5-10
Friday - Luke 1:39-45
Saturday - Luke 1:46-55
Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Household Prayer: Morning

God, surely you are my salvation.
I begin this day without fear, trusting you,
for you are my strength.
Help me to meditate all day
on the thought that you are rejoicing in me!
And keep me keenly aware, as I travel through this day,
of ways that I may help others,
especially those with special needs.
Then bring me home to you at the close of the day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for the gift of today
and for guarding my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus.
All that I did and all that I left undone,
I now give over to your safekeeping,
trusting in your peace that surpasses all understanding.
Be my rest as I sleep tonight,
and renew me in your love for another day. Amen.

Love





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of Colonie**

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Telephone: 518-869-5589

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