



Fifth Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday

April 6, 2025

Worship – 10:00 AM

Words of Welcome

“It is the mission of the Community Reformed Church of Colonie to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all of our minds; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

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.

The Community Reformed Church of Colonie welcomes you
and thanks you for worshipping with us.

Today we are celebrating Communion. If you wish to receive gluten free bread, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders before the service. In the celebration of Communion, all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to the Table. Please hold the elements until all have received them that we may commune together.

Please join in the worship liturgy by reading the sections in ***bold italics***.

* - Please rise in body or in spirit

FOR CONTEMPLATION

As children we were taught to tell the teacher.
(Justice was dealt when we spoke up.)
As children we were taught to always be kind.
(Friends were made when we spoke love.)
As children we were taught that Zaccheus climbed a tree.
(But we cut that tree down a long time ago.)
So what are the rules for this day and age?
Can we turn black and white into shades of gray?
Do we call each other out, for righteousness sake?
Do we call each other in? Do we grab something to eat?
As always, love is somewhere in between.

PRELUDE “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Ana Crosbourne

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES

INTROIT “How Shall I Come Before the Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship because we long for mercy.
We long for community. We long for God.
We come to worship because we need a good word.
We need connection. We need moral reminders.
We come to worship because we are in between:
Hope and grief; faith and doubt; joy and longing; curiosity and connection.
So we come to worship and God meets us here.
Surely, we are not alone.
Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle.
Amen.

* HYMN "Righteous Mercy"

Righteous Mercy

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D ("Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus")

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Rowland H. Prichard, 1830;
harm. Ralph Vaugh Williams, 1906



Since our child - hood you have taught us what is wrong
Though there's wide - ness in your mer - cy, let us not
Far too of - ten we hold on - to an - ger dressed

and what is right Nur - tur - ing our sense of
a - buse that grace Called in - to this Chris - tian
as righ - teous - ness We for - get we serve a

8
jus - tice, fuel - ing us to work and fight Keep that
jour - ney, let our lives re - flect our faith When we
God who calls us to re - la - tion - ship So when

14
fire for jus - tice burn - ing in the sha - dow
fal - ter and fall short of our com - mit - ment
those who caused us harm re - pent and choose a

19
of our fear E - ven there your Spi - rit's stir - ring,
to your will Hold us, wrap - ping us in your love
bet - ter way Spi - rit move our venge - ful hearts

25
light - ing us a path that's clear
as we work toward whole - ness still
to choose love in - stead of wrath

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers, Jesus loved by different rules.
He offered mercy.
He invited people to dinner.
He told stories of love.
He chose to see the best in others.
We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives.
We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith.
So, like Christ, we believe in
 Offering mercy,
 Inviting people to dinner,
 Telling stories of love,
 And choosing to see the best in others.
With God's help, may it be so.
Amen.*

TAIZE RESPONSE "Jesus, Remember Me" (3 times)

*Jesus, remember me
when you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your Kingdom.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.
When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.
Again and again, bring us closer to you.
Again and again, show us the way.
Through Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.*

TAIZE RESPONSE "With You, O Lord" (3 times)

*With you, O Lord, is life in all its fullness,
And in your light we shall see true light.
With you, O Lord, is life in all its fullness,
And in your light we shall see true light.*

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

When we fail to be righteous,

God is merciful.

When we fail to be merciful,

God invites us to try again.

Again and again,

God moves closer to us.

Again and again,

God shows us the way.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Sarah Huiest

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Kevin Ingalls

ANTHEM "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look,

half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

This is the Word of The Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

THE MORNING MESSAGE - Everything [in] Between –
“Righteousness and Mercy”

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE CALL TO COMMUNION

We have one Lord, one God, one Savior.
*The Holy Spirit makes Christ real to us,
binding us in one, as we share him together.*

This is something we do eagerly.
Christ welcomes us here.

This is something we do seriously.
*For this is the moment of greatest intimacy when we take
the symbols of the body and blood of the risen Lord.*

This is something we do together.
*I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the presence
of the Lord”.*

***PEACE**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace (Colossians 3:15).
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*THE PREFACE

*HYMN "Holy Lord"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee. Your

glo - ry fills the earth, Lord God a - bove. Ho -

san - na in the high - - - est!

THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

The Holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope: We remember with joy the grace by which you created all things and made us in your own image.

We rejoice that you called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations.

Yet we rebelled against your will.

In spite of the prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continued to break your covenant.

In the fullness of time, you sent your only Son to save us.

Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of your favored one, Mary, sharing our life, Christ reconciled us to your love.

At the Jordan your Spirit descended upon Him, anointing Him to preach the good news of your reign.

He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of your compassion.

He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of your grace.

We beheld His glory.

On the night before He died for us, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with His disciples.

After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by His followers and beaten.

He stood trial and was put to death on a cross.

Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, He was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.

Through him you bestow the gift of your Spirit, uniting your church, empowering its mission and leading us into the new creation you have promised.

By His death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body. We therefore receive this Supper in true and unconditional love.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE



Come to the feast of the reign of God; we are in-vit - ed to share!__



Make no ex-cus-es, that you can't at-tend, sim-ply come, for your fam-ily is here!__

For around this table, you will find your family.



Come not be-cause you have to,__ come not to prove you are saved,



come not to speak, or to hear what's ex - pect - ed, have



cour - age to fol - low wher - ev - er Christ leads!

And be open to the ways the Spirit moves among you.



Come to the feast__ of the reign__ of God;__



we are in - vit - ed to share!__ Bring all your sor - rows and



all of your_ joy; the bro - ken are all__ wel-come here!__

*For this is the feast of the reign of God, where the
broken are molded into a Beloved Community.*

Come, for the ta - ble is read-y!___ Come, for the ta - ble is read-y!___

Come for the ta - ble is read-y to of - fer new life!_____

COMMUNION PRAYER

Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!

"GLORY TO BE ALMIGHTY GOD"

Glo - ry be to Al might-y God, and glo-ry be__ to the Son,_____

Glo - ry be to the Spir - it,___ e - ter-nal three in one!___ We

praise your name, we bless your name, we glo - ri - fy your name!

Hope_ with-out end, love__ with-out end World with-out

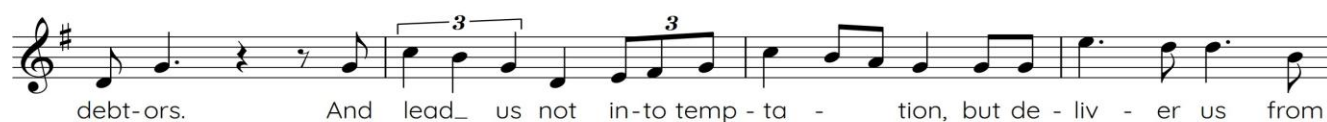
end, oh Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - - est!

COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Since, dear God, in this place at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, we have heard and we have seen the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN "The Lord's Prayer"



*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.*

POSTLUDE “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Liturgical resources and prayers for the worship service have been adapted from those created by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC and are used with permission.

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Leader
Rev. Robert Hoffman

Music Director
Ben April

Elder of the Day
Ana Crosbourne

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Ingalls

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Liturgist
Ana Crosbourne

Welcome Host
Deb Helf

Children’s Message
Sarah Huiest

Coffee Hour Host
Maggie George

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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Music: Lowell Mason, arr. John Carter © 1994
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Righteous Mercy

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, harmonized by
Ralph Vaughan Williams (PD)
Words: Anna Strickland © 2024 Anna
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Jesus, Remember Me

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With You, O Lord

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I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Music: Kathleen Thomerson, arr. Mark Hayes ©
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Holy Lord

Words: Reginald Heber, adapted by
Benjamin April & Bruce Cornwell
Music: Benjamin April

Mystery of Faith

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April

Glory Be to Almighty God

Words & Music: Benjamin April & Bruce
Cornwell

The Lord's Prayer

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April

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All Glory, Laud and Honor

Music: Melchoir Teschner, arr. John Carter ©
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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

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.

Offerings and gifts to the church may be submitted online via PayPal (link or QR code found below or on our website), by mailed check, by direct bank payment or by placing them in the offering box.

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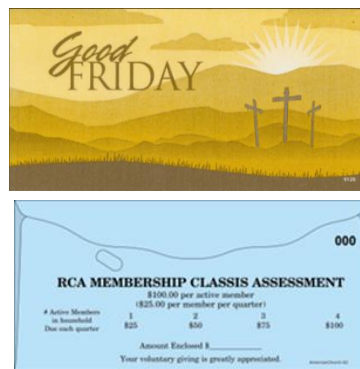
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

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Colonie, NY 12205

April Special Offering Envelopes –



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell

crccsandy@gmail.com

and

Karen Latta

kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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