



The First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023
Order of Service - 10:00 am

* - Please rise in body or in spirit

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

We gain the strength of the temptation we resist.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

PRELUDE “Amazing Grace”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Linda Murphy

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

INTROIT “Make Me a Servant”

CALL TO WORSHIP

In every long road of pain
you are there, Divine Spirit.

In every surprising moment of healing,
your presence is felt, Great Mystery.

Every dark night of grief and despair
is witnessed by you, Holy One.

And every momentary glimpse of joy
reveals your unfailing love, Wisdom of the Ages.

In our moments of courage as we face extended seasons of struggle,
and in our moments of frailty when we grasp at any shortcut
through our pain,
*your grace holds us,
your comfort sustains us,
and your strength carries us, Lover of All.*

Once again as we worship, in faith, hope and love
*we open our minds, hearts, souls, and bodies to you, O God.
Amen.*

* HYMN “He Came Down”

love,
He came down that we may have peace, joy, love,
He came down that we may have peace, joy,
came down that we may have peace, joy,
Hal-le - lu - jah, for - ev - er - more!

* RESPONSIVE READING

We have seen glimpses of a world that is filled with love and justice, but we know that to get there is a long and difficult journey.

***Thank you for giving us a living example,
Jesus of how to make that dream a reality.
We remember your resilience
in the face of corrupt power and injustice.***

We can start small, just facing our own difficulties first, one by one.

***Thank you for your example of staying strong
and true to who you are, Jesus.
We remember your humanity
and how you overcame the same struggles we often face.***

It would be tough to go on this journey alone, to overcome what stands in our way of creating the world we seek.

***Thank you for showing us that within community
we can find companions,
healing, strength, and perseverance.***

We remember that we have the privilege of walking alongside others who face their own struggles.

***May we know that rest, healing,
and the dream of a more just and
loving world are possible
if we are willing to face the long journey ahead
and avoid taking shortcuts.***

May we cling to your strength, hope and light whenever we feel
overwhelmed.
Amen.

***TAIZÉ MEDITATION “The Lord is my Light” (3 times)**

***The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust, in God I trust.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In this life we are bound to face trials and troubles, and we know that it
wasn't ever going to be easy. But Jesus, you had to face the same trials
and troubles; you weren't exempt from them.

***We are comforted that you understand our struggles, you
have felt pain, you know sorrow and sadness, you have scars
too.***

We have been taught that struggling is a failure on our part so we try
to pretend that we have it all together.

***Forgive us for not being honest and open about our struggles.
We have made it so much harder thinking we have to deal
with this alone.***

We need to remember our essential humanity in these tough times,
that we have the capacity to overcome whatever life may throw at us,
but only by resisting the temptation to cut corners and avoid
anything unpleasant.

***In your most desperate times, Jesus, you were able to stay
true to your best self. You knew that quick fixes were
temporary and wealth and power would undermine your
message.***

You decided to face the long, painful journey of ministry, death, and resurrection; to reveal the potential of the reign of God without the distraction of wealth and power, and this gives us the courage to face our struggles, because we've seen you do it too.

We cling to the hope we find in you, the strength we know we have, and the light burning forever within 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!***

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS - Romans 10:9

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Melody York

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD - Kevin Ingalls

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 "Soon We Will Be Done"

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the

temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

THE MORNING MESSAGE "The Devil Isn't Ignorant"

*HYMN "Guide My Feet"



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand while I run this race.
 Stand by me
 I'm your child



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand while I run this race.
 Stand by me
 I'm your child



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand while I run this race, for I
 Stand by me
 I'm your child



don't want to run this race in vain!

*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.*

Worship Leaders

Minister of Word and
Sacrament
**Rev. Bruce K.
Cornwell**

Elder of the Day
Karl Coté

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Ingalls

Liturgist
Melody York

Children's Message
Melody York

Director of Music
Ministries
Ben April

Soloist
Tina Bottini

Choir

**Tina-Marie Bottini
Michelle Braungard
Maggie George
Kaaren Haushalter
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Pam Izzo
Marissa Lombardo
Lisa McGee**

Technical Director
Cameron Kaercher

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Video Technician
Addison York

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

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arr. John Bell
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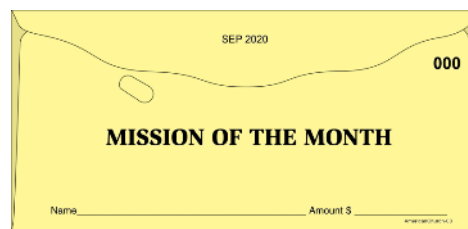
Mailing Address:

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

Special Offering Envelopes –

There are three special offering envelopes for February.

You may make your offering to these with the envelope provided, mail in the offering to the Church office or through Paypal. If you have any questions, contact Lori Coté at crcclori@gmail.com.



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 Sunday Worship via Zoom, use the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/CRCCZoom>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell

crccsandy@gmail.com

Karen Latta

kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

**COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE
STAFF AND CONSISTORY**

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Marissa Lombardo
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Kevin Bottini
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*The
Season
of
Lent*

