



The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



July 18, 2021

Order of Worship
9:00 am

Please tune your radio to station 88.9 FM

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

Capitalism works better from every perspective when the economic decision makers are forced to share power with those who will be affected by those decisions.

- Barney Frank

PRELUDE "Brother James' Air, Wade in the Water"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

INTROIT “Sanctuary”

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world that too easily wounds and breaks,
we long for those who will heal and restore;

In a world that too easily divides and dissects,
we long for those who will unify and interweave;

In a world that too easily excludes and judges,
we long for those who will include and understand;

And in a world where your call, O God, can still be heard,
*we long for the courage to answer,
and to be the ones we long for.
Amen.*

HYMN 574 – “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

CANONBURY

*1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your wandering children, lost, alone.*

*2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the stumbling and the straying feet;
and feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungry ones with manna sweet.*

*3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious things which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my heart shall overflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.*

THE RESPONSIVE READING

We may not see it—we may not *want* to see it,
but power dynamics are everywhere, God;
In every relationship, in every social circle,
in every organization and community,
there are some people with power
and some without.

We will never be free of these power dynamics, God,
but we can learn to do power better—and that is our prayer!

May we learn to share what power we have
***so that we never seek to control or exploit
the other people in our lives;***

May we seek to participate in systems of power
***in every group to which we belong,
while also making space for others to have power;***

May we hold those in positions of power to account,
***whether they be in government, business,
religion, or any other sphere;***

And may we all learn to resist the temptation
***to use our power to control others,
or to use manipulation to gain power when we feel
powerless.***

As we learn to use power together in just and loving ways,
may we begin to glimpse the presence of your Reign,
and its power-sharing priorities,
among us.

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Lord, Be Glorified” (3 times)

***In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.***

***In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.***

***In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.***

***In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Power is seductive, God;
We may not want to rule the world,
but we do want to rule *our* world;
We may not want to control armies
and multi-national corporations,
but we do want to control our loved ones,
our circumstances, and our corner of the world.

We think that all this control will make us safer,
but we're wrong.

It just creates conflict as we all try to cling to
whatever power we feel we have;

***Forgive us and heal us, O God,
and show us new ways to engage with power,
justly and compassionately.***

Thank you for the example you have given us in Jesus
of how to turn away from
dominance or manipulation,
and share power with one
another;

Thank you for the way you have shared your divine power with us,
and for your gifts of humility, mutual service, and love
that empower us to work together
for the common good.

***We praise you, God of love and justice,
and we commit to follow your power-sharing ways.***

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Jesus, Remember Me" (3 times)

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

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS ~ Isaiah 54:8, 43-45; 44:22

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ~ Sarah Huiest

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Tina Bottini

CALL TO OFFERING

The Spirit of God is upon me, and God has anointed me to preach good news to the poor to proclaim release to the captive, and recovery of sight to the blind,

to mend the brokenhearted, to comfort all who mourn, to set free those who are oppressed,

and to proclaim the year of the Lord's work has begun. This is the work Christ has done.

This is what we experience in him.

So let us sing praises for good news,

for release and freedom, for healing and the work of God in our hearts.

Let us offer our gifts to God.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

PayPal:

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

Mailing Address:

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

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 DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Living Lord Jesus, we give thanks for all that you have done for us and continue to do for us through the gift of your Spirit. You welcome us as part of your family, members of God's household. Help us always to show our gratitude, not only through these gifts but also through our acceptance of others and as a welcoming and loving community of faith. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

ELDER'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ~ Lisa McGee

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.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 10:34-44

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be servant of all.

THE MORNING MESSAGE "Just Power"

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

ST. BRENDAN'S

*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 FOURFOLD AMEN

STAINER

Minister of Word and Sacrament
Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell

Director of Music Ministries
Benjamin April

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Soloist
Marv Helf

Deacon of the Day
Tina Bottini

Elder of the Day
Lisa McGee

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
John Lombardo/Alex Huiest

The Responsive Reading and the Prayer of Confession
Were written by John van de Laar