



Third Sunday in Lent

Order of Service –

March 23, 2025

10:00 am

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

\* - Please rise in body or in spirit

### *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.

## FOR CONTEMPLATION

### Slow Growth

There's a vine in the South that covers everything.  
It chokes out the light. Grows up to twelve inches per day.  
In a matter of years, it will blanket a forest.  
If you saw it from space, you'd marvel at its reach.  
If you saw it from the passenger seat, you'd weep at what it covers.  
Those looking for fast shade plant this invasive vine.  
Who can blame them? We're all impatient.  
But if it's fruit you want—  
the tart cherry,  
the sticky sweet kumquat,  
the soft side of a peach,  
the crisp bite of an apple—  
then bless the rain.  
Thank the sun.  
Put your hands in the dirt,  
and wait.

**PRELUDE** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**THE PRAYER QUILT** this morning is in celebration of the birth of Lexi and James Brown's daughter, Hallie Jean.

**THE ELDER'S PRAYER** – Melody York

**THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES**

**INTROIT** “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Worship is a place to rest.  
*We breathe deeply here.*

We still our aching bones.

***We sit in the quiet.***

We surround ourselves with music.

***Worship is a place to rest.***

Worship is a place to grow.

***We listen for the Word of God.***

We invite it to challenge us.

***We lean in with curiosity.***

We ask questions.

***Worship is a place to grow.***

So come into this space. Come here to rest and grow.

***For where two or three are gathered, God is always there.***

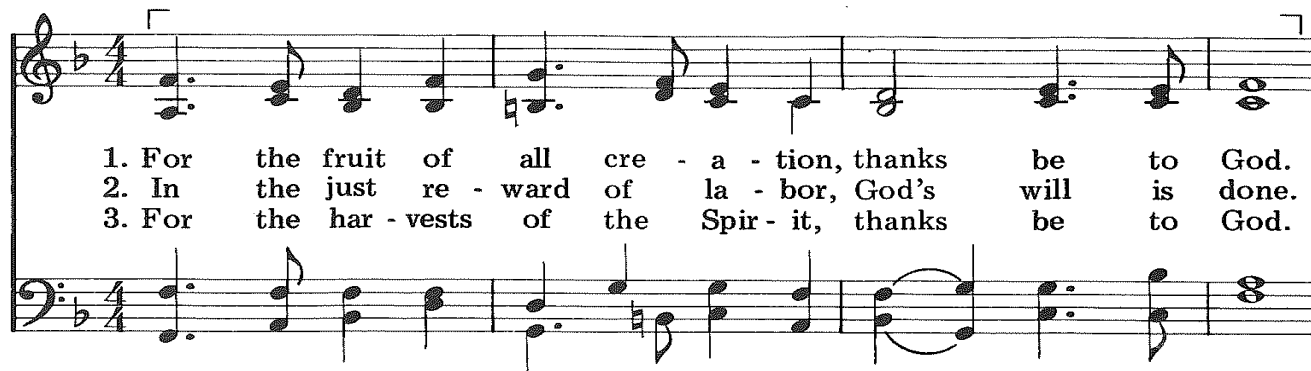
Let us worship our gracious God.



\* HYMN 379 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

# 379 For the Fruit of All Creation

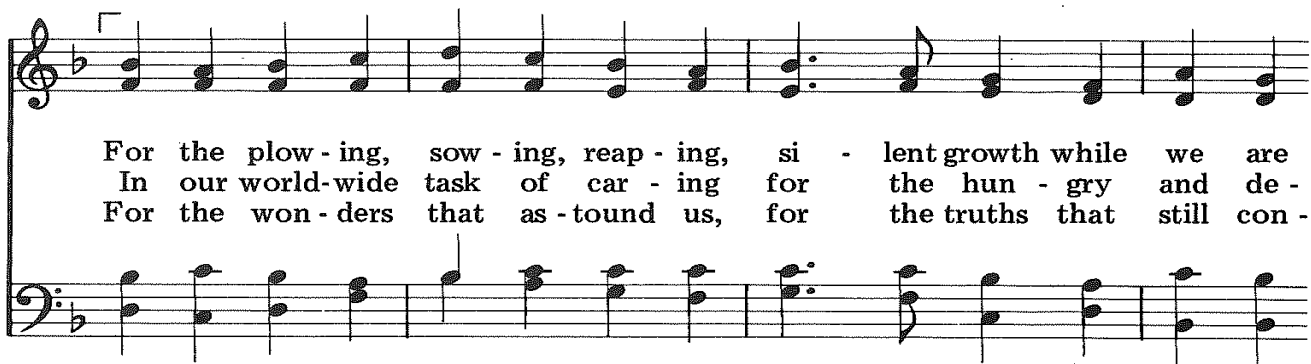
*Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. Ps. 148:5*



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
 In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 found us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1970

MUSIC: Traditional Welsh melody, c. 1784; harm. attr. Luther O. Emerson, 1906

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## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener.  
We believe that like the trees, some seasons are for growth, and  
some are for rest.  
Some days require pruning, and some require planting.  
Fortunately, we believe that our God sees us and cultivates the  
sweetest fruit.  
So we plant roots, reach for the sky, grow where we can, and rest  
when we need to.  
For we believe there is holiness in the pruning and in the planting.  
And we do not grow alone.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.*

## TAIZÉ MEDITATION “I Belong to You, O God” (3 times)

*I belong to you, O God, I belong to you.  
I belong to you, O God, I belong to you.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.  
We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation.  
We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.  
There are also days when we fail to act.  
We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses  
and justify our inaction.  
God, forgive our imbalance.  
Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the  
same.  
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

## TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Lord Jesus Christ” (3 times)

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Thanks be to God. Amen!*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Melody York

## DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Jessica Kaercher

## 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 “Hymn of Heaven”

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 13:6-9

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

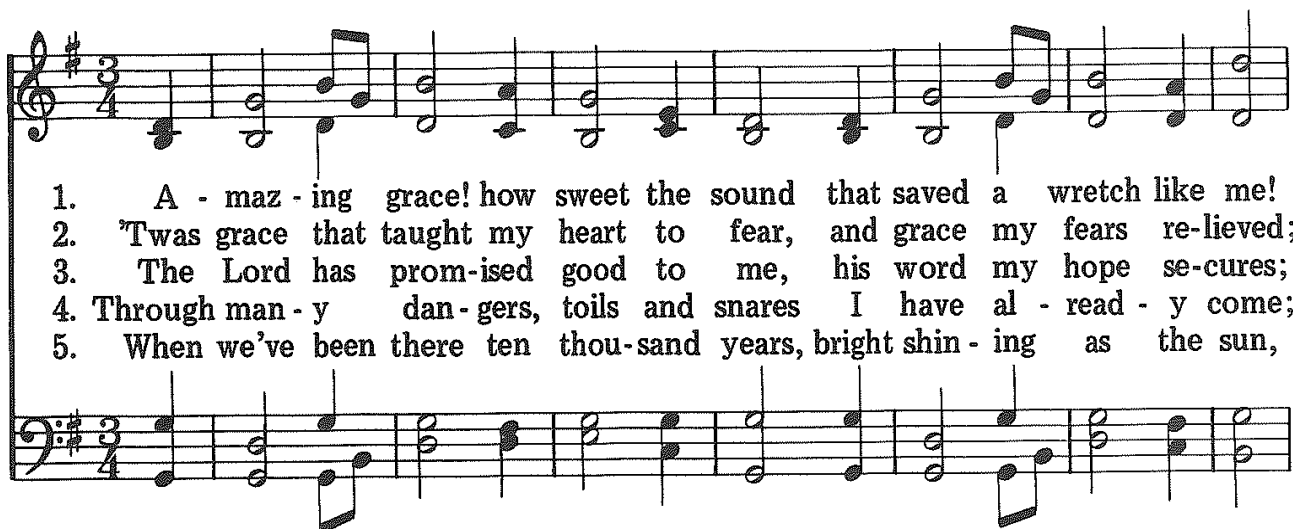
This is the Word of The Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

## THE MORNING MESSAGE “Everything (In) Between – Rest and Growth”

\*HYMN 502 "Amazing Grace"

# Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound 502

God is able to make all grace abound to you . . . 2 Cor. 9:8



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;  
3. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;  
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;  
5. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,



I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.  
how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!  
he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779, alt.; st. 5, anonymous  
MUSIC: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN  
C.M.

## 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 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

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  
**Alex Huiest**

Music Director  
**Ben April**

Elder of the Day  
**Melody York**

Sound Technician  
**John Lombardo**

Deacon of the Day  
**Jessica Kaercher**

Video Technician  
**Addison York**

Liturgist  
**Kyrra Howard**

Welcome Host  
**Deborah Helf**

Children’s Message  
**Melody York**

Coffee Hour Host  
**Linda Murphy**



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### **Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**

Music: Ghana Folk Song, adapted by Tom Colvin, arr. John Carter © 1969 and this arr.

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### **Come & Find the Quiet Center**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: B.F. White (Public Domain)

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### **For the Fruit of All Creation**

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970

Music: Traditional Welsh melody, c. 1784; attr. Luther O. Emerson, 1906

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### **I Belong to You, O God**

Words & Music: Bruce Cornwell, harmonized by Benjamin April

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### **Lord Jesus Christ**

Text: Psalm 139; Taizé Community

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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### **The Irish Blessing**

Words: Traditional

Music: Benjamin April © 2021 Benjamin April

### **Jesus, Lover of My Soul**

Music: Joseph Parry, arr. John Carter © 2010

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## ZOOM

To join 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

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.

**PayPal:**

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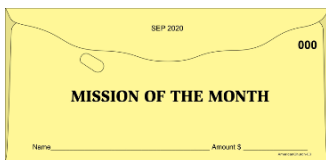
**Website:**

[www.communityreformedchurch.com](http://www.communityreformedchurch.com)

**Mailing Address:**

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

## March Special Offering Envelopes –



## Prayer E-Chain

**Please email prayer requests to:**

Sandy Cornwell  
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Karen Latta  
[kmlatta@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kmlatta@nycap.rr.com)

## COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

### STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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### CONSISTORY

#### Elders

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Ana Crosbourn  
Linda Murphy  
Melody York

#### Deacons

Kevin Bottini  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Jessica Kaercher



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