

Fourth Sunday in Lent Order of Service – March 30, 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

The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, "Who among you wouldn't leave the 99? Who among you wouldn't look for the one?" Someone in the crowd probably rolled their eyes. Someone squirmed and looked at their palms. Someone sighed and thought to themselves, "This man doesn't understand the business. What fool would leave 99 to look for one?" But maybe God was not talking about us. Maybe God was talking about her own reckless love. Maybe God was talking about her own willingness to turn the world upside down for me.

PRELUDE "Ständchen"

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER'S PRAYER - Linda Murphy

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

INTROIT "God is Here Today"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God is a shepherding God. *Our God knows us by name.* Our God will never stop searching for us. So, if you feel lost, *Then know that God is seeking you.* If you feel found, *Then know that God will never leave you.* This is the promise of scripture. *This is the promise of God's love.* Let us worship our God-with-us God.

Lost and Found

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by B.F. White, 1844



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We believe in a seeking God, a with-us and before-us God, a chasing-after-us God.

We believe that no matter where we wander or what mountains we climb, this God - the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem, shook hands with lepers, patted children on the head, and told stories of love - THIS God is always close at hand. So on the good days and the hard days, on the mountains and in the valleys, we believe that we are always being found. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" (3 times)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful In the Lord I will rejoice. Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices the Lord is near, Lift up your voices the Lord is near.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If God is a painter, Let us be the brush. If God is a musician, Let us be the song. If God is an architect, Let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders. But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking, Let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel. Our God is never too far away. Lord, forgive us when we forget this good news. 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!

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Sarah Huiest

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD - Kevin Bottini

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 "Reckless Love"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 15:1-7

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninetynine righteous persons who need no repentance.

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

THE MORNING MESSAGE "Everything (In) Between - Lost and Found"



MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859

8.7.8.7.D.

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 "Near the Cross"

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**

> Elder of the Day Linda Murphy

Deacon of the Day Kevin Bottini

> Liturgist Karl Coté

Children's Message Sarah Huiest Music Director Ben April

Sound Technician Mike York

Video Technician Alex Huiest

Welcome Host Jessica and Mark Kaercher

> Coffee Hour Host Linda Murphy

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My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Music: Lowell Mason, arr. John Carter © 2003 Hope Publishing Used by Permission. CCLI License # 21149226

God is Here Today

Words & Music: Traditional Mexican, translated/arranged by C. Michael Hawn, harmonized by Gary Alan Smith © 1999 Choristers Guild Used by Permission. CCLI License # 21149226

Lost and Found

Music: B.F. White (PD) Words: Anna Strickland © 2024 Anna Strickland, Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

Near the Cross

Music: William H. Doane, arr. John Carter © 2003 Hope Publishing Company Used by Permission. CCLI License # 21149226

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

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Come and Fill Our Hearts

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Reckless Love

Words & Music: Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, & Ran Jackson © 2017 Watershed Publishing Group, Bethel Music Publishing, Richmond Park Publishing Used by Permission. CCLI License # 21149226

The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional Music: Benjamin April© 2021 Benjamin April

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

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March Special Offering Envelopes -





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