



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

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

“Being truly righteous
does not mean looking up a rule in a book
and then doing the 'right thing';
it means wrestling with the complexities of a problem,
listening for the voice of God,
and then doing God's thing.”

~ Thomas Long

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Ana Crosbourne

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE –

New Members of the Church

As we continue our journey through the Advent season,
we pray for a new vision of Divine Process,
in our universe,
in our society,
in our relationships,
and in us;
and we pray that we may have
the openness and vulnerability
to share the love that drives
all of God’s creative, saving processes.

*And so, as we light the Candle of Love
as we invite love and connection into our world and lives,
and as we enjoy the warmth of the flame,
we give thanks for your Divine Process
that eternally creates, recreates, and renews
the Cosmos. Amen.*

INTROIT “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Into our world filled with both creativity and destructiveness,
filled with both fame and obscurity,
filled with both sacredness and profanity,
filled with both humility and arrogance,
God comes.

The Divine Process has always shaped creation;
it shapes our lives now,
and it will always shape the Cosmos
within which God moves, and works, and loves.

And so, we celebrate again the Advent of our Divine Teacher,
our Divine Healer,
our Divine Liberator,
and we celebrate the hidden Divine Process
that is always renewing the world,
around us,
among us,
and within us.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

* HYMN 140 “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” (2 times)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel

***RESPONSIVE READING**

With Christmas all around us,
expressed in bright lights and glitter,
it's easy to forget that the small moments
are filled with wonder too.

We seek out the wonder in the ordinary,
we listen for the soft songs of the birds and rain,
we watch for the dance of the wind,
and we recognize the divine
in these small moments.

The birth of Jesus wasn't broadcast for all to see
or celebrated with a lavish festival.
Instead, you arrived to an audience of a few,
in a lowly manger,
surrounded by people who loved you.

God shared one of the greatest gifts
in a still and unexpected place.
We celebrate the gift of Jesus
that reminds us that the small, ordinary moments
are treasured and sacred.

We remember all those who feel ignored or excluded
by the noise and greed of society;
***May we become aware of those hiding in the shadows,
and invite them into the warmth
of your love.***

With our Christmas lists getting longer each year,
we can become very self-focused,
and miss the needs of those around us.
***May we become aware of the needs of others
and find a way to lessen someone's burden
this season.***

Your welcome and love is extended to all,
including all as your beloved children.
***May we become expressions of your love and welcome
to each person we meet,
knowing that we are living as little incarnations
in this great big world. Amen.***

***TAIZÉ MEDITATION 152 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (2 times)**

***“Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

God, you have extended your welcome to us
with no conditions to strictly follow,
no rules by which to abide.
***We are grateful for a place to belong,
where we can be ourselves.***
***We can come to you with all our flaws
and know that perfection
is not what you seek.***

But we like our lines that define who is in
and who is out.
We find comfort in thinking we are included,
that we are part of your chosen ones.

***Forgive us for placing such lines and limits
on your freely-given welcome,
for expecting conformity from others
instead of being open to diversity.***

We like to keep the incarnation in the past,
as a supernatural event that happened only to Jesus.
Then we can justify our belief that you are with us
and not with those who disturb us
or disagree with us.

***Forgive us for resisting the divine in others,
especially when we feel challenged.***

***Help us to recognize your image
in our neighbors and enemies.***

You show us how to find the divine
in the mundane and ordinary,
how to be stopped in our tracks
by little creatures
or tiny natural wonders.

***When we recognize incarnation in nature,
we discover that there is divinity within us,
and we start to believe that others too
are little incarnations of the divine.***

***May we be open to your divine presence and image
in everything and everyone. Amen.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION 135 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (Verse 1)

***1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.***

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Melody York

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 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

THE MORNING MESSAGE “Doing God’s Thing”

***HYMN 174 “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (Verses 1-4)**

*1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*2 Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: [Refrain]*

*3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of Nations,
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]*

*4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear. [Refrain]*

***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
Ana Crosbourne

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Liturgist
Vicki Lane

Children's Message
Melody York

Director of Music
Ministries
Ben April

Soloist
Kevin Ingalls

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
Gerry Kallner

Video Technician
Addison York

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

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**O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel**
Traditional Advent
Carol, arranged by
Benjamin April ©
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**Emmanuel,
Emmanuel**
Words & Music: Bob
McGee, 1976
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**Angels We Have
Heard on High**
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**We Three Kings of
Orient Are**
Traditional, arranged
by Becki Slagle Mayo
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The Irish Blessing
Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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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://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 found below or on our website), by mailed check, by direct bank payment or by placing them in the offering box.

PayPal:

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

Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

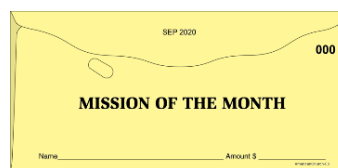
Mailing Address:

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

Special Offering Envelopes –

There are three special offering envelopes for December

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.





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

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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Cameron Kaercher
Technical Director

CONSISTORY

Elders

Karl Côté
Ana Crosbourne
Marissa Lombardo
Linda Murphy

Deacons

Kevin Bottini
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Jessica Kaercher





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