



# *The Second Sunday of Advent*

December 4, 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\***

"John the Baptist is the kind of Advent guest that forces you to wonder either what in the world is wrong with HIM or what in the world is wrong with YOU."

**PRELUDE** "In the Bleak Midwinter/Away in a Manager"

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

### THE ELDER'S PRAYER ~ Karl Côté

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Members of the Production Booth

As we continue our journey through the Advent season,  
we pray for a new vision of the Divine Purpose,

*in our universe,  
in our society,  
in our relationships,  
and in us;*

and we pray that we may have  
the wisdom and grace  
to participate in creating the peace  
that God's Purpose seeks to bring.

*And so, as we light the Candle of Peace,  
as we invite calm into our world and lives,  
and as we enjoy the beauty of the flame,  
we give thanks for your Divine Purpose in which  
we are called to share. Amen.*

### INTROIT "Sanctuary"

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Into our world filled with both dreams and aimlessness,  
filled with both meaning and meaninglessness, filled  
with both altruism and selfishness,  
filled with both complacency and purpose,  
*God comes.*

The Divine Purpose has always shaped creation,  
*it shapes our lives now,*  
and it will always shape the Cosmos  
*which God seeks to make one and whole.*

And so we celebrate again the Advent of our Divine Creator,  
our Divine Guide,  
our Divine Counsellor,  
***and we celebrate the Divine Purpose that is  
always working itself out,  
around us,  
among us,  
and within us.***

***Thanks be to God!***

***Amen.***

**\* HYMN 163 “Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

***1 Lo! how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.***

***2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.***

***3 This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.***

**PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION**

Standing in this sacred place we recognize you, God.  
We become aware of your presence around us and within us.  
***We remember your warmth surrounding us,  
your grace lifting us up,  
and your love holding us close.***

Standing among your beloved children  
we see the diversity you created,  
from eye color to ears,  
from interests to habits,  
not one of us looks the same.

***Oh, how dull the world would be if we did!  
We celebrate the differences we see  
and know they are all expressions of you, God.***

But we also know how easy it is to look in the mirror  
and judge the person looking back;  
from failing to quitting,  
from appearance to values,  
it can be hard to find something to love.  
***We have tried to live up to unrealistic expectations,  
and felt broken when we couldn't.  
We are sorry for not extending the same love  
and celebration to ourselves  
as we do to others.***

You have shown us that what we see in the mirror  
is not the truth.  
You have tried to remind us that we are unique,  
and so loved and celebrated by you.  
***It can be hard to hear your voice over our own noise,  
but we want to.  
We choose to look at ourselves today  
as you see us.  
We choose to embrace your welcome  
and stand tall in our diversity,  
embracing all our flaws and failures,  
and feeling your peace wrap around us.  
Amen.***

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

***I 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 ~ Mark Kaercher

## 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.***

## THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

## THE MORNING MESSAGE "92 Points"



# *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

## Christmas Communion

### THE CALL TO COMMUNION

We have one Lord, one God, one Savior.

*The Holy Spirit makes Christ real to us, binding us in one, as we share him together.*

This is something we do eagerly.

*Christ welcomes us here.*

This is something we do seriously.

*For this is the moment of greatest intimacy when we take the symbols of the body and blood of the risen Lord.*

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the presence of the Lord."*

### \* A CHRISTMAS CONFESSION OF FAITH

"What Child is This?" GREENSLEEVES

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*I believe that Jesus Christ - true God, son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary - is my Lord.*

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.*

*At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.*

*Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent word is pleading.*

*Not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.*

*Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.*

*All this He has done that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

*Just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.*

*Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.*

*This is most certainly true.*

## \* PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

## THE PREFACE

\* A HYMN OF PRAISE “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! The Herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King:  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’ angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”*

## THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

The Holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope: we remember with joy the grace by which God created all things and made us in God’s own image.

*We rejoice that God called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations.*

Yet we rebelled against God’s will.

*In spite of the prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continued to break the covenant.*



In the fullness of time, God sent God's only Son to save us.

***Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the favored one, Mary, sharing our life, Christ reconciled us to God's love.***

At the Jordan, God's Spirit descended upon Him, anointing Him to preach the good news of God's reign.

***He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of God's compassion.***

He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of God's grace.

***We beheld His glory.***

On the night before He died for us, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with His disciples.

***After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by His followers and beaten.***

He stood trial and was put to death on a cross.

***Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, He was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.***

Through him God bestows the gift of the Spirit, uniting the church, empowering its mission and leading us into the new creation God has promised.

***By His death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body. We therefore receive this Supper in true and unconditional love.***

## THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

*Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:*

*Christ has died!  
Christ is Risen!  
Christ will come again!*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS “Angels We Have Heard On High”

GLORIA

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of hosts, all praise be given!  
All your glory fills the earth,  
all your power fills the heavens!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Blessed is the King who came,  
bringing love and light divine!  
Blessed is the King who comes  
in the word, the bread, the wine!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## COMMUNION

THE PROMISE “Away in the Manger”

AWAY IN A MANGER

*Lord, now in your mercy your servants release  
as your word as promised. Oh, grant us your peace.  
Our eyes your salvation and mercy behold,  
prepared for the nations, as prophets foretold.*

*A light to the gentiles, by whom they now see  
the glory of Isr'el, the promised one He  
who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright sun,  
with Father and Spirit eternally one.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Since, dear God in this place at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, we have heard and we have seen the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## THE PARTING BLESSING “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

*The Lord now bless and keep you all  
And make God's face to shine;  
Lift up God's face with shining grace  
And grant you peace divine.*

*To Father, Son and Spirit,  
Eternal three in one,  
All glory be eternally.  
Amen! So be it done!*

## \* BENEDICTION

## \* THE IRISH BLESSING

*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be ever at your back,  
May the sunshine 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.*

## **Worship Leaders**

Minister of Word and  
Sacrament

**Rev. Bruce K.  
Cornwell**

Elder of the Day  
**Karl Coté**

Deacon of the Day  
**Kevin Ingalls**

Liturgist  
**Mark Kaercher**

Children's Message  
**Mark Kaercher**

Director of Music  
Ministries  
**Ben April**

## **Choir**

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

Technical Director  
**Lori Coté/Cameron  
Kaercher**

Sound Technician  
**Jerry Kallner**

Video Technician  
**John Lombardo**

Welcome Host  
**Mark Kaercher**

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**The Irish Blessing**  
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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**

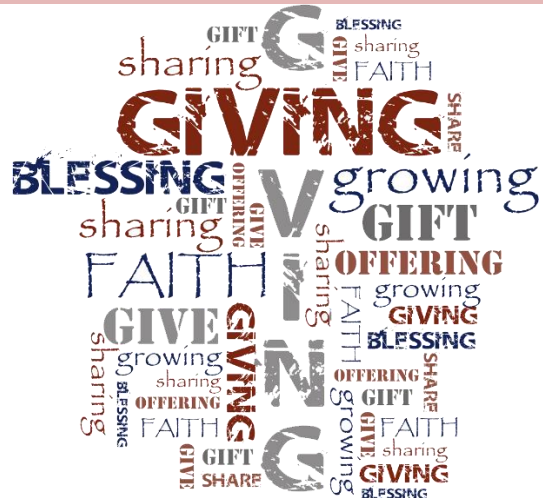
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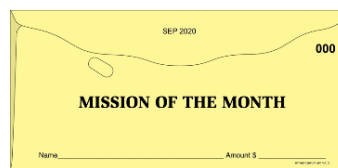
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Community Reformed Church of Colonie  
701 Sand Creek Road  
Colonie, NY 12205

**Special Offering Envelopes –**

**There are three special offering envelopes for November**

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](mailto:crcclori@gmail.com).



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**STAFF AND CONSISTORY**

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Ana Crosbourn  
Marissa Lombardo  
Linda Murphy

**Deacons**

Kevin Bottini  
Marvin Helf  
Kevin Ingalls  
Jessica Kaercher



**Prayer E-Chain**

**Please email prayer requests to:**

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



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Happy 2nd week of Advent!

