



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021
Order of Service ~ 10:00 am

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*

“How do we change the world?
One random act of kindness at a time.

~ Morgan Freeman

PRELUDE 133 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Welcome
Announcements

THE ELDER'S PRAYER ~ Linda Murphy

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Luke Pickett, Annabel Macomber, and Zachary Huiest

We can't thank you enough for your unfailing kindness in our lives, and we recognize all those who reflect that kindness in our relationships.

We are grateful for the ability to see you in the people around us.

There have been challenges that have pushed us to our limits, and it's so easy to respond from a place of tiredness. But we are grateful for the ability to respond with kindness; we see the difference that kindness makes in our world.

We hope to reflect this kindness to everyone we encounter.

For the strength to be kind in every situation and with every person we encounter,

We ask for a gentle reminder, God, and the awareness to respond in love.

For those who are so broken that kindness is beyond their capacity,

May we respond with patience and offer the healing that your love brings.

For places of deep and destructive polarization, where the gaps between us grow wider and ever more hurtful,

May we be open to seeing other perspectives and notice the person who is dearly loved by you.

For our world to grow ever more kind and connected,

May we start this journey by living out your Reign of Love in every way we can, for as long as we can. Amen.

(The Third Advent Candle is lighted)

As we light this candle, we express our longing for kindness

And we cling to the joy we find in Christ.

INTROIT "Make Me A Servant"

CALL TO WORSHIP

We dream of a world where kindness and civility govern all our dealings with one another.

But that is not yet our world.

We long for the calm and joy that comes when we know we care for one another and share in creating a more joyful world.

But that is not yet our experience in this world.

Christ has come into our world bringing kindness and joy.

Christ is with us now teaching us to love one another and make God's joy complete.

Christ will continue to enter every broken place, every wounded person, and every conflicted interaction with his offer of kindness.

We cling to God's kindness toward us and we open ourselves to Christ's joy and love again. Amen.

HYMN 138 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

***Savior of the nations, come, show yourself the Virgin's son.
Fill with wonder, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.***

***Not by human power or seed did the woman's womb conceive;
only by the Spirit's breath was the Word of God made flesh.***

***Christ laid down his majesty, passed thro' dark Gethsemane;
though he left his Father's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.***

***Christ in glory, intercede for your creatures' suffering need;
let your resurrecting power soon complete the victory hour.***

***Praise to you, O Lord, we sing; praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come.***

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Throughout our lives we have come to know your kindness and grace, O God, we have felt the grace when we don't deserve it, and the kindness when we expected disappointment.

Thank you for showing us your unconditional love.

We have experienced the kindness of people around us and who appreciate our kindness in return.

Thank you for making yourself known to us through one another.

We remember the joy we find in deep connections with God, ourselves, others, and our world.

Thank you for the childlike joy we are able to nurture in our lives.

There have been moments when we allowed our tiredness, stress, hunger, and anxiety to make us unkind.

We know that we weren't living from our best selves.

Sometimes we perpetuate unkindness by reacting unkindly to those who are unkind to us.

We are sorry for reacting harshly in the moment.

Our lives are often so swamped that we miss times to embrace the joy that is available to us.

Help us to be more aware of the small joys in our everyday lives. And may we now be more aware and open to your voice, and your gentle guidance. Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Come O Lord and Set Us Free" (3 times)

***Come, O Lord, and set us free;
Give your people peace.
Come, O Lord, and set us free;
Come, Lord Jesus, come.***

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ~ Lisa McGee

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Marv Helf

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 "Joy"

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to

gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

THE MORNING MESSAGE “Raise the Kindness Quotient”

HYMN 140 “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” (2 times)

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His Name Is Called Emmanuel.
God With Us, Revealed In Us!
His Name Is Called Emmanuel.***

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.***

Minister of Word and Sacrament
Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell

Director of Music Ministries
Benjamin April

Soloist
Benjamin April

Choir
**Tina-Marie Bottini
Michelle Braunguard
Maggie George
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Pam Izzo
Marissa Lombardo
Lisa McGee**

Elder of the Day
Linda Murphy

Deacon of the Day
Marv Helf

Children's Message
Lisa McGee

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Video Technician
Alex Huiest

The Advent Candle lighting liturgy, the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Praise and Confession were written by John van de Laar

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O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Words: Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916
Music: Thomas Helmore, 1854
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 133
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Make Me A Servant

Words & Music: Kelly Willard
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Savior of the Nations, Come

Words: Martin Luther, 1623,
tr. Calvin Seerveld, 1984
Music: Enchiridia, Erfurt, 1524
Harm. Seth Calvisius, 1594
The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 138
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Come O Lord & Set Us Free

Contributors: John Bell
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Joy

Music: J.S. Bach
Arranged by George Winston
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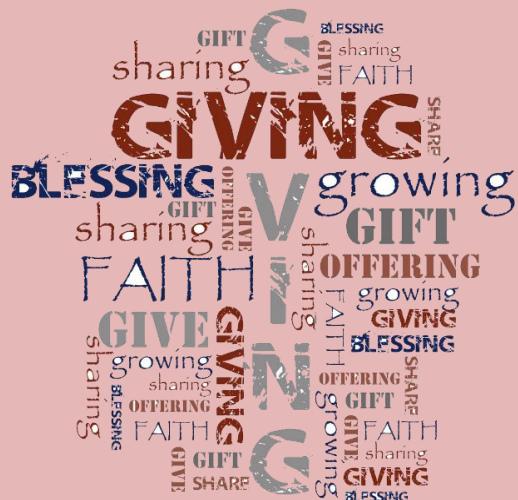
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Words & Music: Bob McGee, 1976
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The Worshipping Church Hymn
Hymn 140
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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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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 located near the exit.



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

GENERAL NOTICES

Today, Sunday School for children in grades 3-6 meets in the Gathering Room from 9:00 to 9:45 am.

Tuesday, December 14

The Gathering Zoom Devotions - 4 to 4:30 pm

Thursday, December 16

The Gathering Zoom Devotions - 6:30 to 7 pm

Sunday School Teacher - We are in need of a Sunday school teacher for children in grades 3-6. There is a curriculum for you to follow. If interested, please speak to Sarah Huiest (crccsarah@gmail.com).

The Youth Group is collecting some items for Ronald McDonald House to be donated during Morning of Kindness on December 24th. Donations of cereal/granola bars, individual snack/chip bags, and individual boxes of cereal/oatmeal can be left in designated box at the back of the sanctuary. If you need your items picked up, please email Sarah Huiest (crccsarah@gmail.com).



Loyal Chair Stackers -

Today is truly your day of rest.
Our chairs do not need to be stacked because of the
upcoming Daycare Christmas show.
And no table set up either!
All that is needed is the cubbies - you deserve a break today!!

THE CHRISMON TREE



The Chrismon Tree: Chrismons are a type of Christmas tree decoration used in many churches and often in the homes of Christians. Chrismons (CHRIST MONogram) are tree ornaments that proclaim our Lord Jesus Christ through the use of symbols. The symbols used represent a variety of biblical and theological concepts that are well known among most believers. Most Chrismons are white with gold decorations of wire, beads, ribbon, and glitter. The white color is symbolic of the purity of Jesus and the gold represents the majesty of the newborn king. The paper chain that encircles our tree is a Thank You chain. Written on each little slip of paper are our personal words of thanks to our Lord.



Our annual Angel Tree collection has begun!
This year we will be collecting gifts for **Things of My Very Own** in
two ways
- even our Angel Tree is now hybrid!!

There are angel tags on the tree in the back of the sanctuary for
your choosing or you can go to: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/crcc-angel-tree>

When a child is removed from an abusive or dangerous situation,
they may only possess the clothing they are wearing at that
moment. This agency, which serves the Capital District, provides
them with clothes, bedding, supplies – and even toys. This caring
agency gives them “things of my very own” and helps them
transition through those initial difficult days.

Please return **unwrapped** gifts and items by **December 12**.
Questions? Contact Sandy Cornwell, Sarah Huiest, or Tina Bottini
Thank you for your support.



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

“For unto us a child is born and his name shall be called Wonderful.”

**Welcome the Christ Child in the
soft glow of candlelight
7:00 PM**

**Extended musical prelude before the worship will feature the many
gifts of our church family**

Pre-registration is requested for in-person attendance.

Register at,

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA92AA6FAC43-
december2](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA92AA6FAC43-december2)**

**For the safety of all, masks will be required.
This service will also be available on Zoom.**



Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to order your poinsettias!

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Total Plants ordered: _____

Cost: \$10 per plant

- Cash**
- Check** (Made payable to Community Reformed Church)
- PayPal** https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=2EA93DM627X2A

**Please return this order including payment
to the church office
by December 12**

Plants will be supplied by Valoze's Nursery

**Community Reformed Church
701 Sand Creek Road, Colonie NY 12205
518-869-5589
crcclori@gmail.com**

ZOOM

To join in Devotions, The Wired Word and 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

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE

STAFF AND CONSISTORY

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Rev. Bruce K. Cornwell, Pastor

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CONSISTORY

Elders

Karl Coté

Ana Crosbourne

Marissa Lombardo

Linda Murphy

Deacons

Kevin Bottini

Ellen Buono

Marvin Helf

Kevin Ingalls



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell

crccsandy@gmail.com

Karen Latta

kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday - Micah 5:2-5
Tuesday - Psalm 80:1-3
Wednesday - Psalm 80:4-7
Thursday - Hebrews 10:5-10
Friday - Luke 1:39-45
Saturday - Luke 1:46-55
Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Household Prayer: Morning

God, surely you are my salvation.
I begin this day without fear, trusting you,
for you are my strength
Help me to meditate all day
on the thought that you are rejoicing in me!
And keep me keenly aware, as I travel through this day,
of ways that I may help others,
especially those with special needs.
Then bring me home to you at the close of the day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for the gift of today
and for guarding my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus.
All that I did and all that I left undone,
I now give over to your safekeeping,
trusting in your peace that surpasses all understanding.
Be my rest as I sleep tonight,
and renew me in your love for another day. Amen.



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