



The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 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*

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

~ Desmond Tutu

PRELUDE "Holy Spirit"

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Welcome
Announcements

THE ELDER'S PRAYER ~ Karl Coté

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

God, you have expressed your longing
for a world living by your Reign of Love.

Thank you for making your longings known to us

Jesus, you knew you couldn't avoid the pain of death,
yet you remembered the hope found in God.

Thank you for showing us how to cling to life.

Spirit, you have enlivened and empowered us to stay alert,
to keep watch for the signs of God's Reign of Love among us,
to prepare for the worst even as we hope for the best.

Thank you for bringing us back to life.

We ask for the strength to resist the temptation
to numb ourselves out to the chaos and heartache of the world.

May we remain open hearted.

We think of those who feel overwhelmed,
and do not have the capacity to stay alert
and live fully in the face of their pain

May they feel calm and peace.

We pray for survivors of trauma,
those without adequate income and shelter,
those who suffer from mental illness,
those who grieve a life or a loved one that is now lost

May they experience love and acceptance.

We pray for our world to become increasingly a more compassionate,
just, welcoming, and loving place
May we be brave enough to make this a reality
today and every day.

(The Advent Candle is lighted.)

As we light this candle we express our longing for full and vibrant life
And we cling to our hope in the Presence and Life of Christ.

INTROIT "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

CALL TO WORSHIP

We dream of a world where everyone can live fully and freely.

But that is not yet our world.

We long to be free of the anxiety and struggle that robs us of life and to hope with confidence that our hopes will be fulfilled.

But that is not yet our world.

Christ has come into our world and shared our grief, our struggle, and our frail humanness.

Christ is with us now bringing the abundant life we seek.

Christ will continue to enter into our joy and sorrow, our pain and healing, until the world becomes the world of our dreams.

We cling to our hope in Christ and we open ourselves to the Spirit of Life again. Amen.

HYMN 135 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

***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.***

***2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.***

RESPONSIVE READING

Your reign is always coming, Jesus,
slipping into our lives quietly like a thief,
and subverting our comfortable self-interest;

***and, even though we know we should be watching
we miss it too easily and too often.***

But, then when we remember,
when we set our hearts to see,
and our eyes to search,
***we begin to recognize the signs,
the unexpected evidence of your glory
in our ordinary, everyday normality.***

And so we praise you for the Reign of God
that constantly breaks into the world of women and men,
***that always opens us to the new,
the possible,
the eternal,
the yes.***

And we praise you for the capacity to watch,
***to see it coming,
to recognize it's advent,
even though sometimes watching is the last thing we do.
Amen.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Lord, Be Glorified"

***In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.***

***In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.***

***In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.***

***In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.***

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

God, we see your life in the trees and flowers,
we hear your life in the birds' song,
we feel your life in the wind that rustles the leaves;
We know you are within it all.

Today we recognize that your life is also within us,
that we are part of your created world.
In the same way that your life is felt in the rain that quenches our land,
we feel your life sustaining us during the tough times,
the painful times.
We thank you for your sustaining life.

But there are days when we struggle to see you,
hear you, and feel you.
***We are sorry for letting these days get the better of us,
for letting them dull our hearts.***

We try to cope with the chaos and heartache by numbing ourselves to
it, by pretending it doesn't and can't hurt us.
The darkness drains the light of life from within us,
it seeps into our lives and relationships,
it leaves us feeling tired and empty.
***We know we can't keep this up,
so we come to you***

We open ourselves to your word of life and light.
Speak to us today we pray. Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Wait for the Lord" (3 times)

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.***

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS ~ Psalm 103:8 10-12

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ~ Mark Kaercher

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 "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

THE MORNING MESSAGE "Our Miraculous Capacity For Hope"

HYMN "Until Jesus Comes" (2 times)

*Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes,
I'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.
Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes,
I'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.*

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
Kevin Ingalls

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

Elder of the Day
Karl Coté

Deacon of the Day
Marv Helf

Children’s Message
Mark Kaercher

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
John Lombardo

The Call to Worship, The Lighting of the Advent Candles,
the Responsive Reading and the Prayer of Praise and Confession were written by John
van de Laar

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Holy Spirit

Words & Music: Bryan Torwalt
& Katie Torwalt

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Come and Find the Quiet Center

Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Music: B.F. White

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Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830; arr. Ralph
Vaughan Williams, 1906

The Worshipping Church Hymn

Hymn 135

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Lord Be Gloried

Contributors: Bob Kilpatrick

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Wait For The Lord

Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé

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Until Jesus Comes

Words & Music: Dean McIntyre

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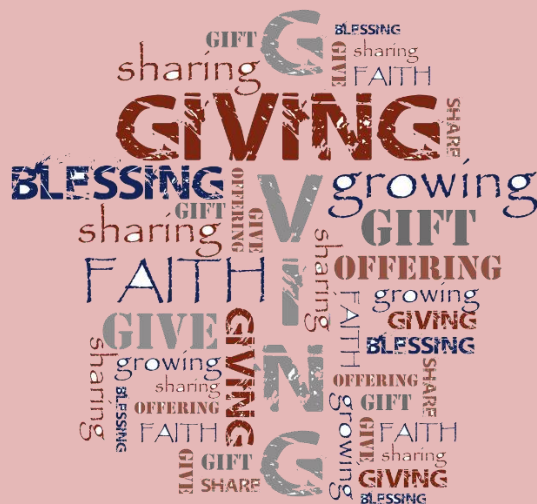
The Irish Blessing

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, November 30

The Gathering Zoom Devotions - 4 to 4:30 pm

Book Group - will be meeting at the home of Cynthia Placek on Tuesday, November 30th at 6:00pm. The book we will be discussing is **Manchester Christmas** written by John Gray of Channel 10 News. All are welcome.

Karen Reynolds at kreynolds150@gmail.com.

Wednesday, December 1

The Men's Group will have their next dinner gathering on Wednesday, 12/1 at 6:00PM at the church. Please RSVP using the Sign Up Genius link, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA92AA6FAC43-mens5> , to let us know if you plan to attend."

Thursday, December 2

The Gathering Zoom Devotions - 6:30 to 7 pm



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.

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).



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
crccclori@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

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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 - Malachi 3:1-4
Tuesday - Luke 1:68-75
Wednesday - Luke 1:76-79
Thursday - Philippians 1:3-8
Friday - Philippians 1:9-11
Saturday - Luke 3:1-6
Sunday - Second Sunday of Advent

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you for this new day to sing your praise
and watch for signs of your kingdom.
By your Spirit, let me abound in love for you
and your children,
that in living and loving I may point to your coming reign.
In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you for the signs of your coming reign,
and for the power of your saving love.
Bless all those whom I met today,
and strengthen their hope in your power and grace.
Now as I close my eyes,
I relinquish all anxieties and fears,
trusting in your providence and mercy. Amen.



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