

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of the Lord

April 9, 2023

In-Person and Online 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

“You mustn’t doubt the strength or beauty of the plant
just because the pot broke.”

~ Aunt Sadie

PRELUDE "Day of Arising"

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER'S PRAYER – Linda Murphy

INTROIT "Easter Alleluia"

CALL TO WORSHIP

We thought you were dead.
We thought the cross was the end.
We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb,
that was it.

But this is it:
***the dead are living;
the cross is empty;
the stone is rolled,
and one word describes it all:
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!***

We thought you had said your final word.
We thought those with the power had won.
We thought that when you cried out,
that was it.

But this is it:
***the word breathes;
the powers are defeated;
the final cry was only the beginning,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!***

We thought the story was finished.
We thought the hope had ended.
We thought that when the tomb was sealed,
that was it.

But this is it:

*the story has just begun;
the hope is newly born;
the tomb is empty,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!*

This is the news:

Jesus is risen!

This is the moment

Jesus is alive!

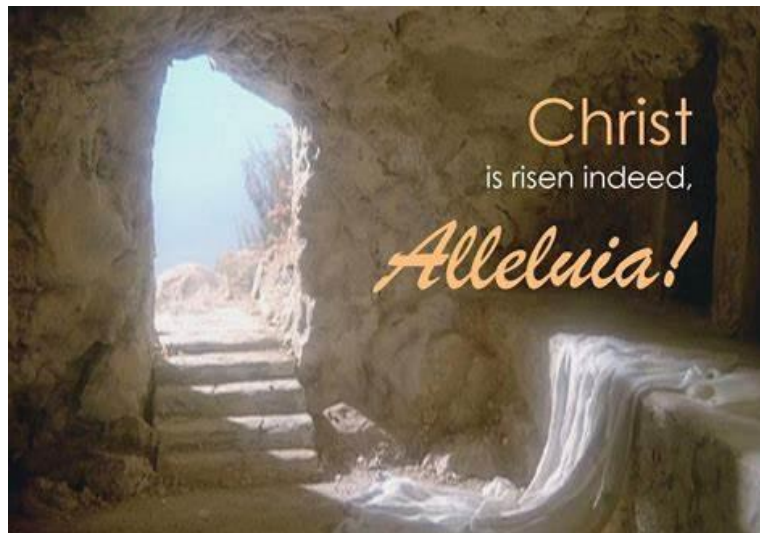
This is the gospel

Jesus is with us!

We thought that when they crucified you,
death had defeated life,
and that was it.

But this is it:

*Love is stronger than death,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!*



*HYMN "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

RESURRECTION

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven 254

... so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death. Heb. 2:14

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise:
 2. Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
 3. Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Set your hearts on things a - bove:
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high!

sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
 see the an - cient powers of e - vil in con - fu - sion and re - treat;
 there in all the Fa - ther's glo - ry lives and reigns our King of love;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who has gained the vic - to - ry!

he who on the cross a vic - tim for the world's sal - va - tion bled,
 once he died, and once was bur - ied: now he lives for - ev - er - more,
 hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wound - ed hands and side;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ the world's Re - deem - er, whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
 now let ev - ery wrong be end - ed, ev - ery sin be cru - ci - fied.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty!

WORDS: Christopher Wordsworth, 1862; rev. *Hymns for Today's Church*, 1982

MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1864

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ODE TO JOY
8.7.8.7.D.

THE SYMBOLS OF THE RESURRECTION

THE SHROUD

This reminds us of the cloth in which they wrapped the body of Jesus. On Easter morning it was found empty, lying in the tomb where Christ's body had been placed. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE FRAGRANT OIL

This fragrance reminds us that very early on Easter Day some women came to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for proper burial. The women were the first to hear of Jesus' resurrection. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE STONE

This stone reminds us that on the resurrection morning, the stone which sealed the tomb was rolled away. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE BREAD

This bread reminds us that on the first Easter evening, Jesus walked and talked with two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. It was not until he broke bread with them that they recognized who he was. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE WINE

This wine, representing Christ's blood, helps us to remember that Jesus died for us. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE CROSS

The cross you see is an empty cross. Jesus is not dead. He is risen. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

SOLO "Were You There"

Soloist: Tina Bottini

THE CANDLE

The lighted Christ candle recalls Jesus' promise as recorded in the gospel of Matthew: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

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 CONFESSION

God, resurrection is not what we expect in our world. On the face of things, life seems to be under threat...

***our earth is grieving,
our families are fracturing,
our nations are at war,
and the light of our hope is growing dim.***

We need the stone to be rolled away again.

***Forgive us and all who have failed to honor and preserve
life in all its diversity and glory***

***Forgive us and all who have allowed relationships to
become less important than riches or recognition.***

Forgive us and all who continue to exalt our needs and desires over those of others, and who are prepared to kill to prove it.

Forgive us and all who have grown blind to all the signs of resurrection that beckon us still.

We need the stone to be rolled away again.

We need life to break out within us again. We need love to consume us again.

Resurrect us today, O Lord,

and make us agents of your life wherever dying and grief hold sway.

For Jesus sake.

Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “The Kingdom of God” (3 times)

***The Kingdom of God is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us
the gates of your kingdom.***

SOLO – “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Mark Kaercher

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM “For the Beauty of the Earth”

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go and tell my brothers, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

MORNING MESSAGE "The Resurrection Life of Christ"



1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
 2. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
 3. Lives a-gain our glo-rious King, Al-le-lu-ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!

All cre-a-tion, join to say Al-le-lu-ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
 Fol-lowing our ex-alt-ed Head, Al-le-lu-ia!

Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Death in vain for-bids him rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re-ply, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Christ has o-pened par-a-dise. Al-le-lu-ia!
 Where thy vic-to-ry, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al-le-lu-ia!

***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.*

Minister of Word and Sacrament
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Deacon
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Kevin Ingalls
Marissa Lombardo
B.J. Todd
Debi Todd

Welcome Host
Lori Côté

Coffee Hour Host
Linda Murphy

The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession
were written by John Van de Laar

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Day of Arising

Words: Susan Palo Cherwien
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Easter Alleluia

Words: Marty Haugen
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Lord Be Glorified

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The Kingdom of God

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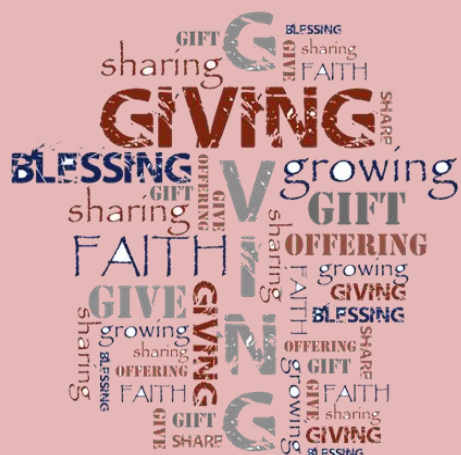
Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Music: Robert Williams, arranged by Lloyd Larson
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Holy Spirit Come to Us

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www.communityreformedchurch.com

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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 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

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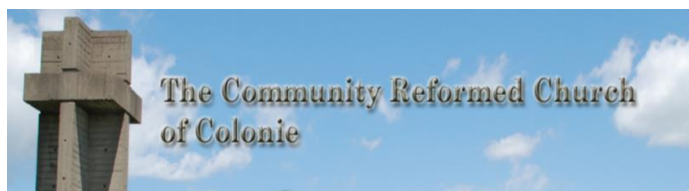
Kevin Bottini
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Jessica Kaercher



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

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