



December 1, 2024
First Week of Advent
Order of Service – 10:00 am

Words of Welcome

“It is the mission of the Community Reformed Church of Colonie to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all of our minds; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

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.

The Community Reformed Church of Colonie welcomes you
and thanks you for worshipping with us.

FOR CONTEMPLATION*

“We are a blessing because we belong to God. When blessedness is our beginning, we begin to see the world - and others - through the eyes of a God who says: ‘You are precious in my sight.’”

Rev. Lisa Gwynn Garrity

Today we are celebrating Communion. If you wish to receive gluten free bread, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders before the service. In the celebration of Communion, all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to the Table. Please hold the elements until all have received them so that we may commune together.

Please join in the worship liturgy by reading the sections in ***bold italics***.
✱ - Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Members of the Advocacy and Global Missions Committee, Sue Bredice, Karl Coté and Donna Davidson

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?
Let us begin with the good news!
Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God.
Let us begin with music and singing!
Let us begin with warmth and welcome.
Let us begin with hope.

Yes, let us begin with hope.
Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a warm and weary world.
May this be our foundation.
May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.

May hope flow forth from here. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER ~ Ana

INTROIT “Breath of God, Breath of Peace”

CALL TO WORSHIP

God says,

Do not be afraid”

God says,

I have called you by name.”

God says,

“I will be with you.”

God says,

“You are precious and honored.”

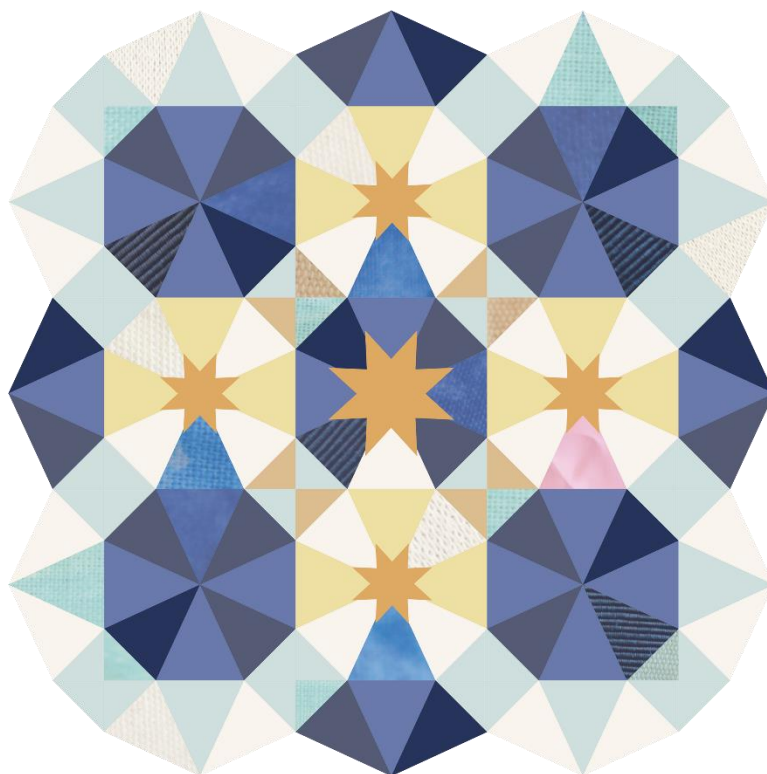
At the beginning of this season,

At the start of this week.

At the top of this hour,

May we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.

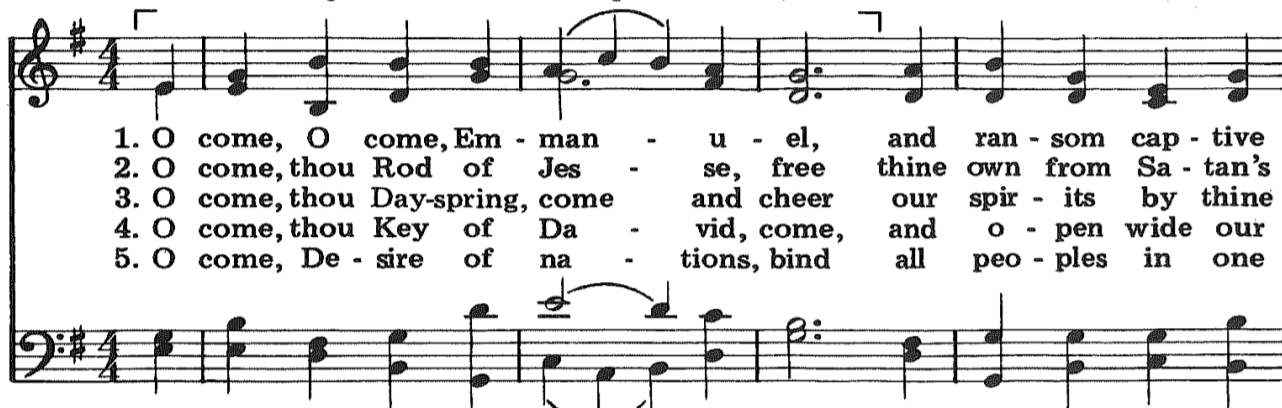
Let us worship our Holy God.



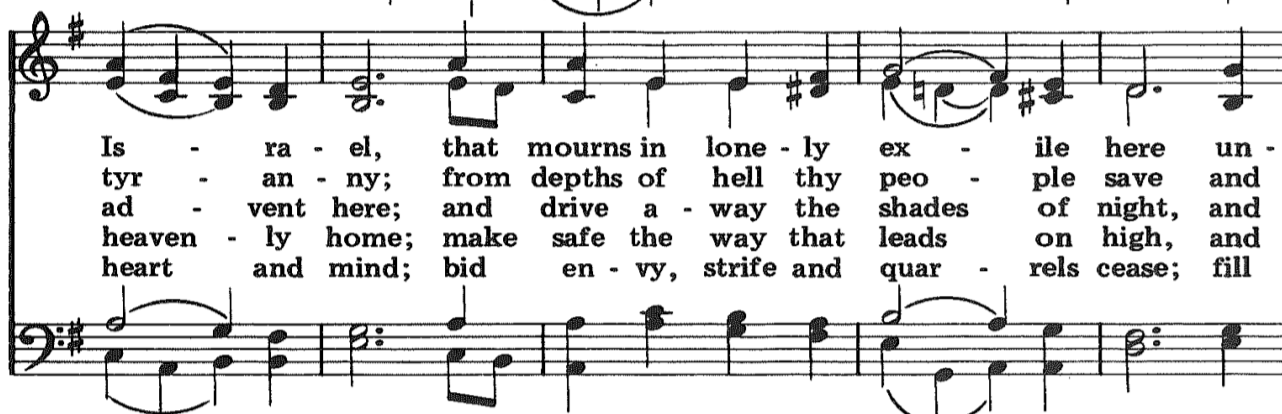
* HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 133

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Is. 7:14



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 3. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 4. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
 5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

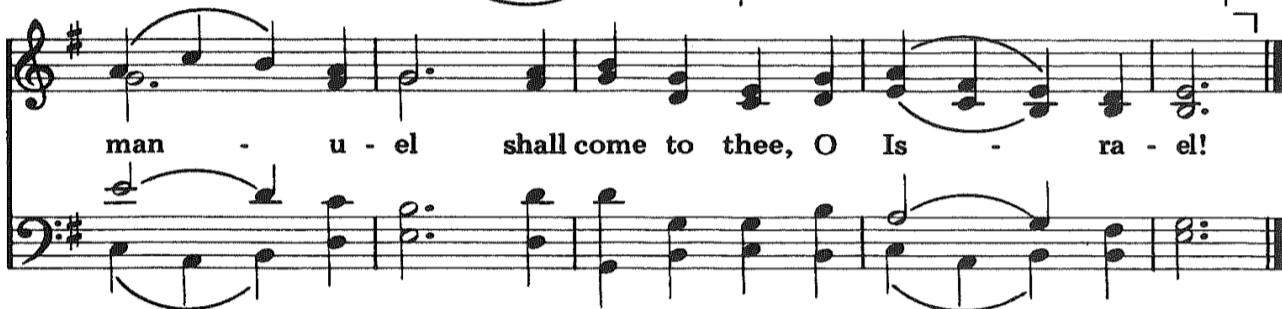


Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un -
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save and
 ad - vent here; and drive a - way the shades of night, and
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain



til the Son of God ap - pear.
 give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 pierce the clouds and bring us light! Re - joice! re - joice! Em -
 close the path to mis - er - y.
 all the world with heav - en's peace.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn, 12th C.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; st. 5, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916
 MUSIC: Thomas Helmore, 1854; based on plainsong phrases

VENI EMMANUEL
 8.8.8.8.8.8.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

*We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved.
We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and
was also bestowed upon the Centurion's servant, the poor in spirit,
the children, the crowds, the Jews and Gentiles, the faithful and
the doubting.
So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water,
forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that
because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than
enough. Thanks be to God.*

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Bless the Lord" (3 times)

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Affirming God, your first words of creation were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."*

*You spoke affirmations through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary.
You spoke your belonging through Christ.*

*At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in
your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth.
Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick
instead of yours.
We believe. Help us in times of unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray. 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

Family of faith,
I don’t know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are.
I don’t know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God.
I don’t know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing.
However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah:
God says,

Do not fear for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let this leave you amazed.
Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ~ Sarah Huiest

DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Jessica Kaercher

ANTHEM “Advent Hymn”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

THE MORNING MESSAGE: Words for the Beginning "You Are A Blessing"



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 Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing,

The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

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

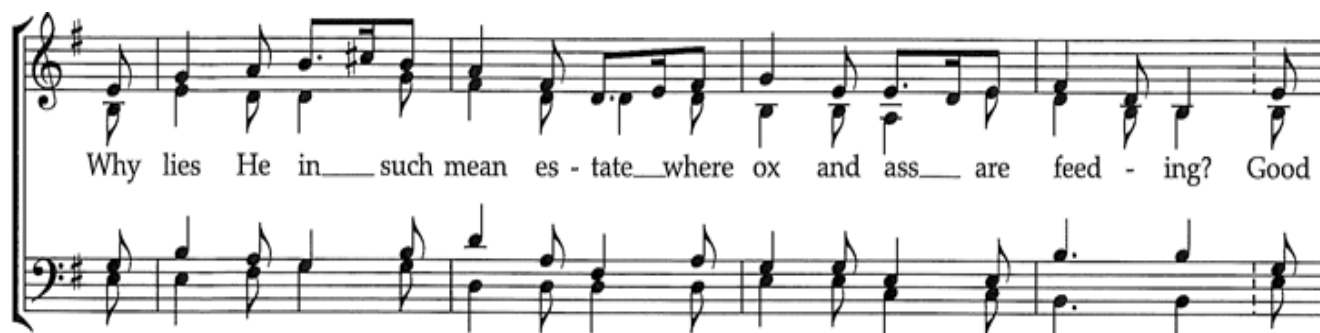
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues with a slight change in rhythm. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

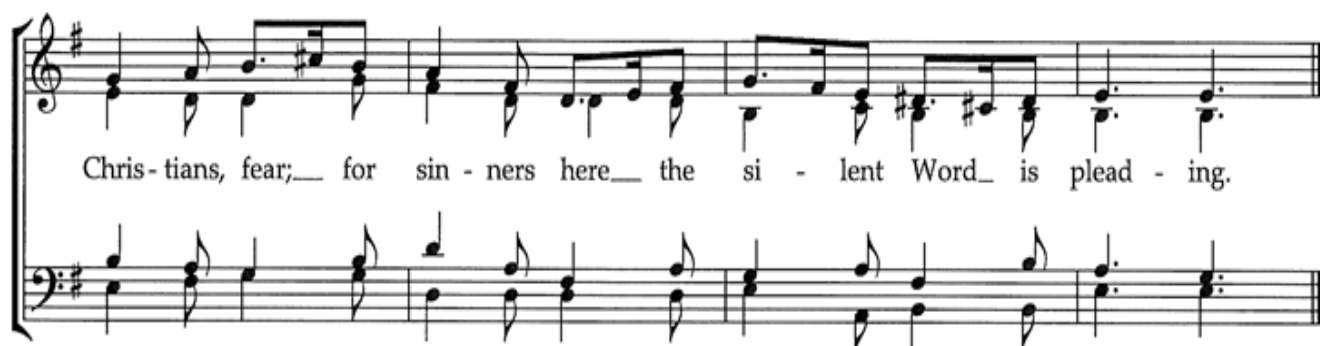
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

The fourth and final system of musical notation on this page. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics conclude below the treble staff.

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.

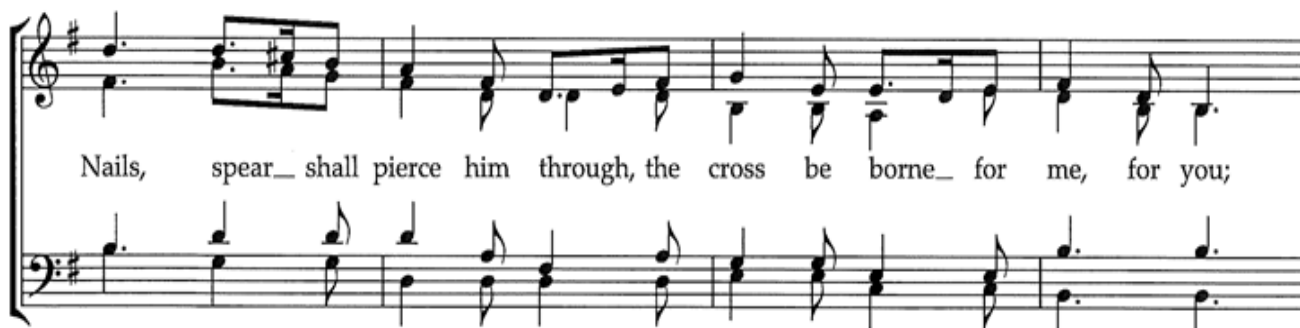


Why lies He in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good



Chris - tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.

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

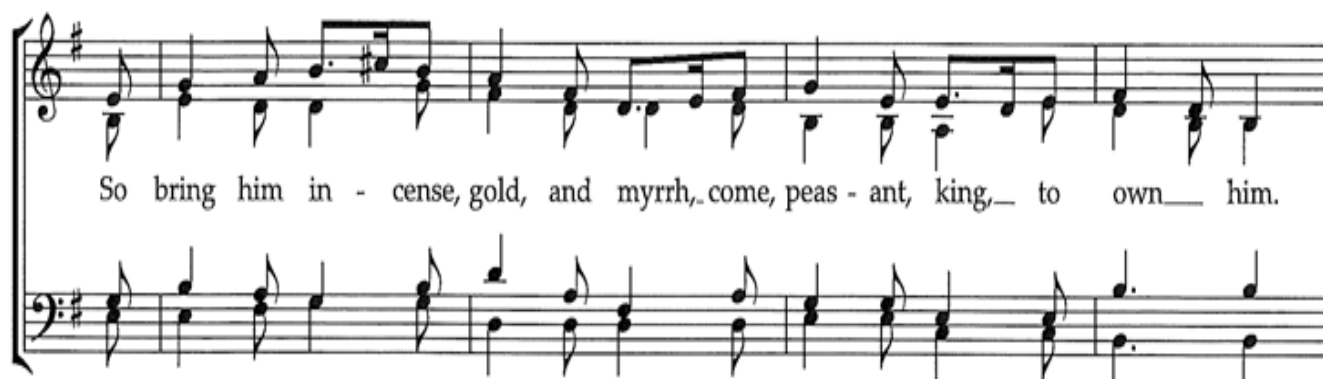


Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

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 in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

This musical system consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace on the left. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.



The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This musical system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It maintains the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

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



Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

This musical system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff features a more active melody with some beamed eighth notes. The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.



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"



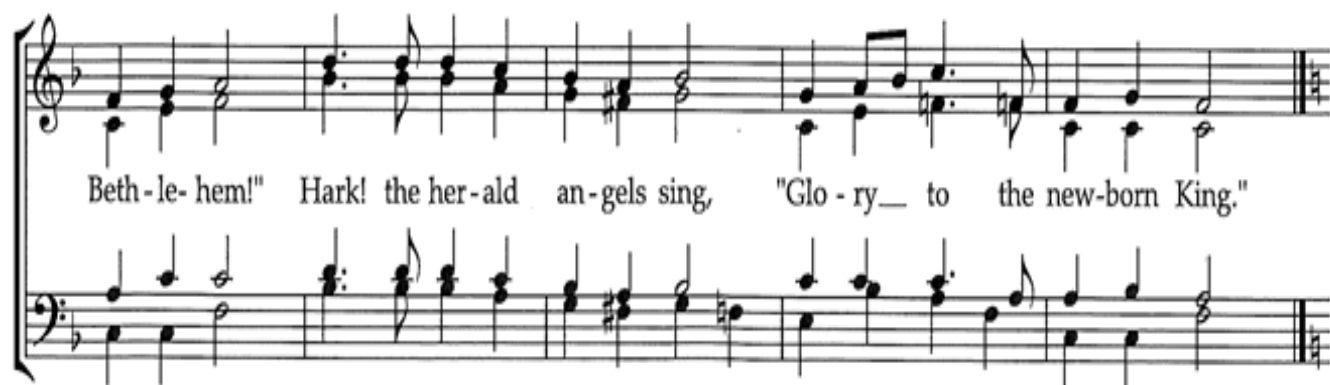
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, - "Glo - ry to the new-born King: peace on earth, and



mer - cy mild, - God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, -



join the tri - umph of the skies: - with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is - born in



Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry - to the new-born 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

PREPARING OUR HEARTS “Angels We Have Heard On High”

GLORIA

The image displays two systems of musical notation for a Gloria. Each system consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

System 1:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all praise be giv'n!
Bles - sed is the King who came, bring - ing love and light di - vine!

System 2:

All your glo - ry fills the earth, all your pow - er fills the heav'ns!
Bles - sed is the King who comes in the word, the bread, the wine!

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

COMMUNION

THE PROMISE “Lord, Now in Your Mercy”

Lord, now in your mer - cy your ser - vants re - lease as your word as pro - mised, oh grant us your
A light to the gen - tiles, by whom they now see the glo - ry of Is - rael, the pro mised one

peace. Our eyes your sal - va - tion and mer - cy be -
He who lives now and ev - er, the hea - ven's bright

hold, pre - pared for the na - tions, as pro - phets fore - told.
sun, with Fa - ther and Spi - rit e - ter - nal - ly 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

The Lord now bless and keep you all and make God's face to shine;

This system contains the first line of the musical score. It features a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Lift up God's face with shin - ing grace and grant you_ peace div - ine.

This system contains the second line of the musical score. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

To Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit, E - ter - nal three in one,

This system contains the third line of the musical score. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

all glo - ry be e - ter - nal - ly. A - men! So be it done.

This system contains the fourth and final line of the musical score. The melody and accompaniment conclude with a final chord. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

* 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.*

POSTLUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

All of the liturgical resources for our Advent and Christmas worship theme, “Words for the Beginning” are used with permission from “A Sanctified Art LLC” and have been adapted from those prepared by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

WORSHIP TEAM

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Rev. Robert Hoffman

Director of Music Ministries
Ben April

Elder of the Day
Ana Crosbourn

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Video Technician
Addison York

Liturgist
Melody York

Welcome Host
Deb Helf

Children’s Message
Sarah Huiest

Coffee Hour Host
Linda Murphy & Doris Neese

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Breath of God, Breath of Peace

Words & Music: Adam M. L. Tice & Sally Ann
Morris, harmonized by Benjamin April
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Bless the Lord

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Advent Hymn

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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, arr. John Carter
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We Three Kings

Music: John Henry Hopkins Jr., arr. Patti
Drennan
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This is the Threefold Truth

Words: Fred Pratt Green
Music: Jack Schrader
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Angels We Have Heard on High

Richard E. Gerig
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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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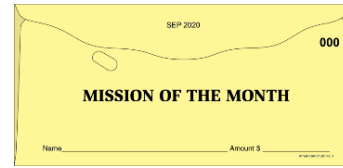
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www.communityreformedchurch.com

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701 Sand Creek Road
Colonie, NY 12205

December Special Offering Envelopes –



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

**COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE
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Deacons

Kevin Bottini
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Jessica Kaercher



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

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Karen Latta
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