

Bearing Fruit by Joel Schoon-Tanis

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025
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 worshiping with us.

Please join in the worship liturgy by reading aloud what is in ***bold italics***.

* - Please rise in body or in spirit

For Contemplation

“Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, shining like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb through the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree’s leaves are for the healing of the nations.” Revelation 22:1-2 (CEB)

PRELUDE “Serenity”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

PRAYER QUILT - We have a prayer quilt out this morning. It is for Pastor Bob and Becky Hoffman’s granddaughter Hannah. She was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is talking to doctors about treatments. After worship, please come forward, tie a knot on the quilt and say a prayer for Hannah.

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Vicki

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “Shall We Gather at the River”

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and the mountains shake and the waters roar.

For there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.

God will help those of the city when the morning dawns.
God makes wars cease
by breaking the bow, shattering the spear, and burning the shields.
Be still and know that I Am God.

Know that the Lord of hosts is with us and is our refuge and strength.
Let us worship this God who invites us to the river of life!

* OPENING SONG "Come to the Water"

Verses 1-2:

Come to the wa - ter, the rock that flows, a liv - ing foun - tain, for

ev - 'ry soul. Taste and see, it's rich and sweet.

Come to the wa - ter, and be made clean, leave all your bur - dens

be-side the stream. It bids us come, the bro - ken and un-done.

Refrain:

Oh, drink deep, drink deep and live; all we need we find in Him. Live a - bun-dant,

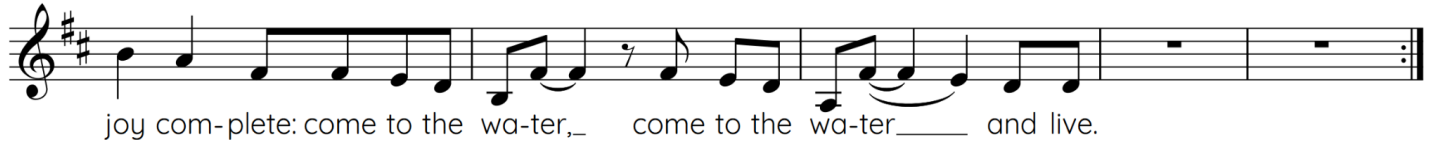
joy com-plete: come to the wa-ter, come to the wa-ter and live.

Verse 3:

Come to the wa - ter, and don't de - lay, watch all our sin now

be washed a-way. It makes us new, oh, how it makes us new.

Refrain:



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Our World Belongs to God* §39

The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners called to be holy. Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others and together confess our need for grace and forgiveness. Restored in Christ's presence and shaped by his life, this new community lives out the ongoing story of God's reconciling love: announcing the new creation and working for a world of justice and peace.

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.***

CONFESSION LITANY Based on the *Baptismal Liturgy* of the Reformed Church in America and Psalm 36

O Christ, you have loved us first.
You call us by name,
you bless us with your presence,
and you lead us into your future.

Forgive us, God,
for we forget your promises,
and run from your grace,
seeking that which does not satisfy.

Remind us, Holy Spirit,
that you are the Giver of Life,

and unite us to the Fountain of Life,
God, the overflowing source of all goodness.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “In God Alone” (3 times)

***In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,
In God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest,
Find its rest and peace.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON & SUMMARY OF GOD’S LAW

Water cleanses and purifies,
refreshes and renews,
nourishes and sustains;
Jesus Christ is living water,
and he promises to do these things for us.

In this stream, God forgives us!
So let us love and trust God completely,
forsaking the evil of the world that leaves us thirsty,
and live renewed and holy lives.
For when we do, we will know Christ’s peace and joy. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Vicki

DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Kevin B

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 “Let All Things Now Living”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, come. Be our guide. Give us the eyes we need to see what you long us to see, and then give us the strength to follow. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON An Interpretative Reading of Ezekiel 47:1-12

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there water was flowing from below the entryway of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east), and the water was flowing down from below the south side of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east, and the water was trickling out on the south side.

Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?"

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish once these waters reach there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

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

Sermon "Do you see it?" Continuity & Change

* SONG OF RESPONSE "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 45

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Ps. 68:19

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2. Here I raise my *Eb-en - e - zer, hith-er by thy help I've come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise his name— I'm fixed up - on it— name of God's re - deem-ing love.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre - cious blood.
here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

* 1 Samuel 7:12

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional American melody; John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D.

*** CHARGE & 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.
Amen.*

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Leader
Rev. Trey Tirpak

Elder of the Day
Vicki Lane

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Liturgist
Karl Coté

Children's Message
Vicki Lane

Music Director
Ben April

Soloist
Marv Helf

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Welcome Host
Cynthia Placek

Coffee Hour Host
Vicki Lane
Lori Coté

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Serenity

Music: Heather Sorenson
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Come to the Water

Words & Music: Michael Farren, Stuart
Garrard, Dustin Smith, Fanny Crosby
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Bless the Lord

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In God Alone

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Let All Things Now Living

Music: Welsh Folk Melody,
arr. Maureen Howell © 2025 Birnamwood Publications
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All Are Welcome

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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April © 2021 Benjamin April

ZOOM

To join 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

Offerings and gifts to the church may be submitted online via PayPal (link or QR code found below or on our website), by mailed check, by direct bank payment or by placing them in the offering box.

PayPal:

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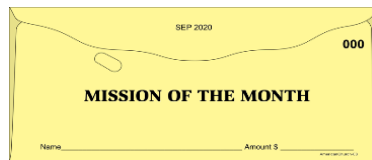
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

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701 Sand Creek Road
Colonie, NY 12205

November Special Offering Envelopes –



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com
&
Karen Reynolds
kreynolds150@gmail.com

**COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE
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CONSISTORY

Elders

Karl Côté, VP
Vicki Lane
Linda Murphy
Melody York

Deacons

Kevin Bottini
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Jessica Kaercher

The Community Reformed Church of Colonie is a **Room for All (RfA)** congregation. Room for All congregations affirm and welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning individuals, and their families into our lives and the full life of the church. As an RfA congregation, we are committed to working with Reformed Church in America churches nationwide to reform denominational policies to allow full inclusion and to celebrate the diversity of all who worship our Lord. Christ's door remains open here and there is "room for all."



A wheelchair is located in the entranceway of the church.



A sign-up sheet for CD copies of this morning's service is located on the back table.



Large print bulletins are available on request.



Our sanctuary is now equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask the elder or deacon for a receiver.



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**Website - www.communityreformedchurch
Facebook - facebook.com/coloniereformed
Twitter - @ColonieReformed**