



Blue Madonna by Wesley Frank

The Fourth Sunday of Advent | Love Sunday
December 21, 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 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

Portions of this service are inspired by the “Grounded & Growing” Advent series from Reformed Worship, and from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship’s “Worship Sourcebook”

For Contemplation

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. - 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

PRELUDE “Do You Hear What I Hear”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Karl

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES | The Huiest Family

Out of darkness a light shines.

From a dead stump, a shoot grows.

One day it will blossom with the flower of love

and bear the fruits of the Spirit.

For God the gardner

will be faithful and tend to it.

For in Advent, heaven's lullaby whispers—

soft with promise and love—

finds its voice in the cries of a newborn child.

The child born so we might know love.

Love incarnate, yet made small enough for us to hold.

So, we continue our Advent journey.

Today, we light this candle of love.

INTROIT “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”



Now the heav - ens start to whis - per as the veil is grow - ing thin.
Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing hurt, and need.



Seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view.



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness: hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the outer depths of space

to the quiet corners of our hearts,

the God who is Love calls out to us:

“Prepare a place for me, make room in your inns!”

For in the darkness of the world and our lives,

light, life, and love will emerge.

This is the hope of Advent!

This is the desire of our hearts.

So be strong and take courage,

“for night will become as bright as day,”

for Christ—the Love of God—is coming!

Hallelujah! Christ is coming!

* OPENING SONG “Hallelujah! Christ is Coming”

The first Advent broke darkness' sway,

Christ's birth made night as bright as day;

When Jesus spoke the truth was known,

When Jesus walked the way was shown,

When Jesus died all death was slain,

When Jesus rose 'twas life's refrain.

REFRAIN:

Hallelujah! Christ is coming

Lord, we wait for you

Yet still the dark with light contends:

Until the Lord Most High descends

His people bear their cross of pain,

His people from the world abstain,

His people thirst for wisdom still,

His people seek his kingdom's will

REFRAIN:

Hallelujah! Christ is coming
Lord, we wait for you

He will return to end the fight,
To banish all the powers of night;
When Christ returns our hope is sealed,
When Christ returns the world is healed,
When Christ returns he is the prize,
When Christ returns the dead will rise.

REFRAIN:

Hallelujah! Christ is coming
Lord, we wait for you

PROFESSION OF FAITH “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”



Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan__ to be,
By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com - mand - ed; it__ was done:



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the source, the end - ing he,
heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni - verse of three_ in one,



of the things that are, that have__ been,
all that sees the moon's soft shin - - - ing,



and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!__
all that breathes be - neath the sun,

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Hazelnuts & Love (Trey)

NEW MEMBERS JOIN

SONG OF RESPONSE: *God Welcomes All* (three times)

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first system of musical notation is for the first line of the song. It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in 4/4 time and key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second system of musical notation is for the second line of the song. It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in 4/4 time and key of D major. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass line continues in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Jessica

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 to the World Unspeakable Joy”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” With your light, O God, illuminate what we need to comprehend today, and give us the strength to love as you have shown us to love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 John 4:7-16, 19 (NRSVue)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; yet if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ... We love because God first loved us.

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

Sermon Is Love Alone Credible?

*** SONG OF RESPONSE “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling” | HYFRYDOL**



Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth_ come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life_ re - ceive; sud - den - ly_ re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let_ us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou_ art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way_ the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love_ thou art; vis - it us_ with
Al - pha and_ O - me - ga be; end_ of faith_ as
serve thee as_ thy hosts_ a - bove, pray_ and praise_ thee
till in heaven we take_ our place, till_ we cast_ our



thy_ sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its_ be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in_ thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore_ thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*** 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
Karl Côté

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Liturgist
Vicki Lane

Children's Message
Rev. Trey Tirpak

Music Director
Ben April

Soloists
Kevin Ingalls
Brian Rhode

Sound Technician
Mike York

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Welcome Host
Deb Helf

Coffee Hour Host
Kyrra April

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Do You Hear What I Hear

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Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

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Hallelujah! Christ is Coming

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God Welcomes All (GtG 399)

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Joy to the World Unspeakable Joy

Chris Tomlin, Matt Gilder & Ed Cash
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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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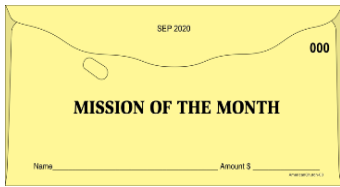
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

Community Reformed Church of Colonie
701 Sand Creek Road
Colonie, NY 12205

December 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 STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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CONSISTORY

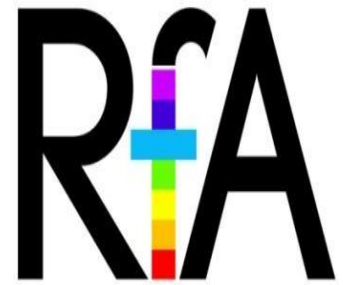
Elders

Karl Coté, 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.



**701 Sand Creek Road, Colonie, NY 12205
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**Website - www.communityreformedchurch
Facebook - facebook.com/coloniereformed
Twitter - @ColonieReformed**