

One small star...

Watching over the troubled, dark times of a land
Divided and fearful, still, its light was at hand.

A guide for the Magi to find the King-child.
Enlightening their hearts, and their way through the wild.

To bring to fruition, a prophecy foretold,
A way for the needy to enter the fold.

Yet its warm, brilliant light shone not just for the three,
But for all those on Earth... for you, and for me.

A sign for those waiting for the birth of the King;
For the hope, peace and joy, and the love that he'd bring.

A beacon assuring He soon would be here,
Bringing light to dark paths, and casting out fear.

A gift from above, shining steady and true.
A gift for humanity, not the powerful few.

The small star's light is pure; the light of the Son.
The light of the world, excluding no one.

And just what would each one of us do with this light?
This gift sent from God on that beautiful night...?

~ by Michele Braungard

For Contemplation

Epiphany Sunday
January 4, 2026
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

PRELUDE “Rejoice, All You!”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Karl

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “Send Out Your Light”

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Christ child is born!

All you who would find him,

prepare for a journey, as determined as the Magi.

All you who would praise him,

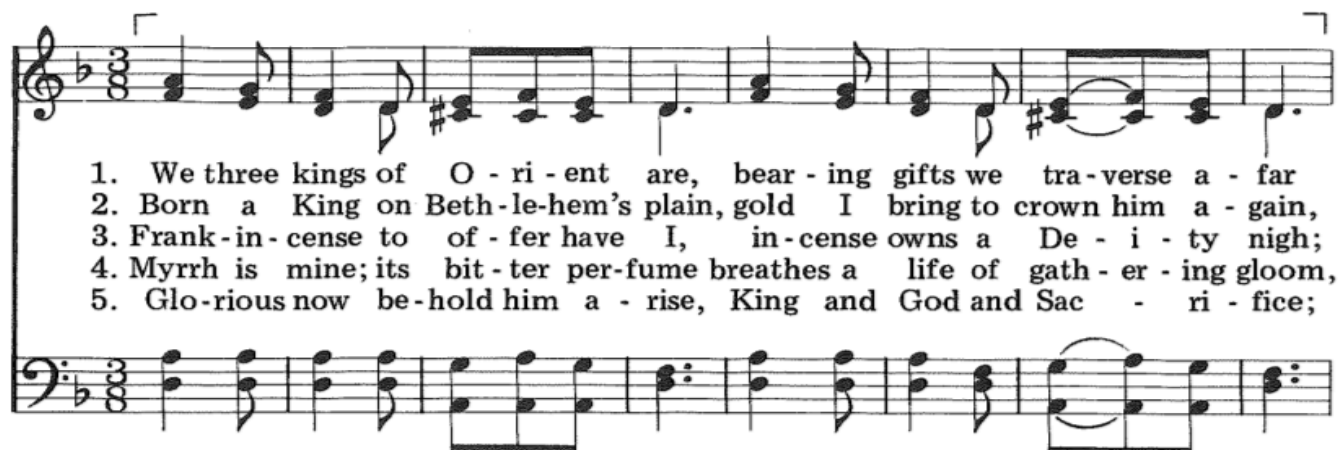
come with the faith to follow but a star.

All you who would worship him,

come with humility to the child

who shows forth the immeasurable riches of God.

* **OPENING SONG** "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

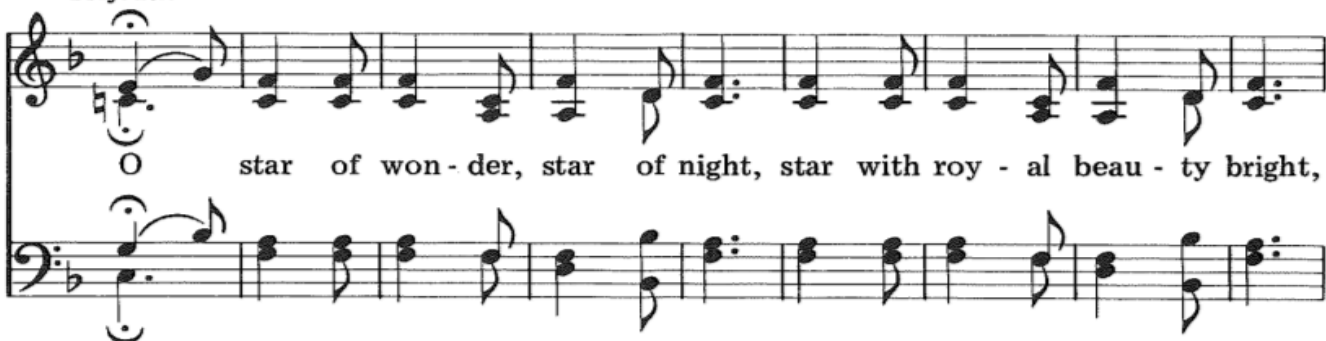


1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom,
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

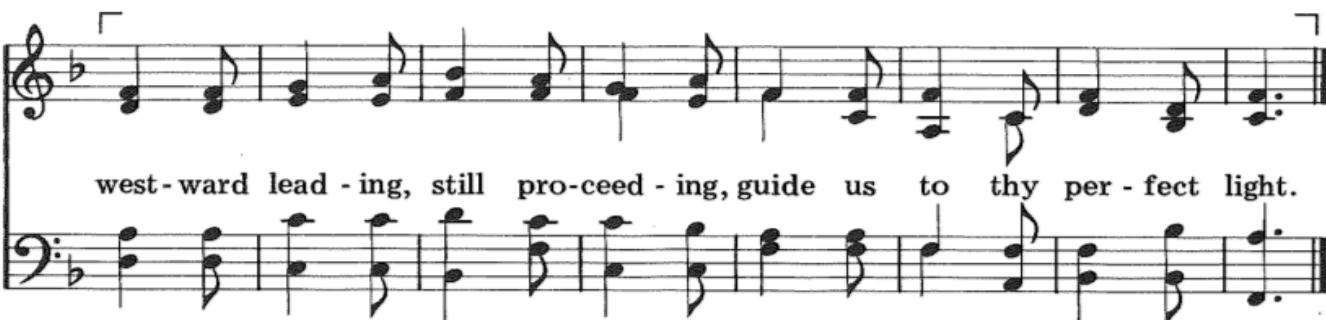


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds thro' the earth and skies.

Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT
8.8.4.4.6.Ref.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH John 1:6-9

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.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us,
we often act in destructive and hateful ways.
we close our hearts to God and disobey God's laws.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***O God, our guide,
who once used a star to lead people to Christ,
we confess our poor sense of direction.
We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted,
and lose our way.
We fail to follow the signs you provide.
Forgive our waywardness, O God.
Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you. Amen***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON 1John 1:5,7

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Lord Jesus Christ” (3 times)

***Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Sarah

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Marv

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 “We Three Kings”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen***

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

SERMON "Guided by a Star"

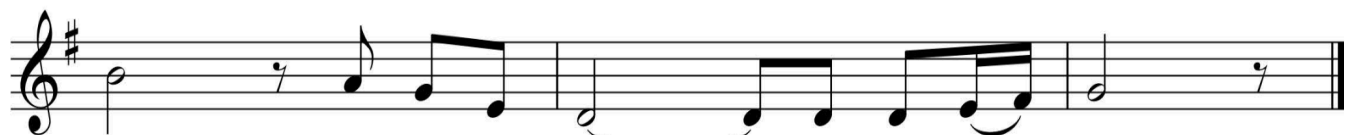
* SONG OF RESPONSE "A Star Shone Bright"



A	star	shone	bright_____	a - cross	the	plain	and	calmed	the	
O	Son	of	God,_____	In - car - nate	Word,		O	Wis - dom's		
From	Beth - le -	hem_____	come	to	our	day;	re - veal	to		
O	star	shine	forth_____	once	more	this	night	and	flood	our



earth_____	so	Love	could	reign.	'Twas	in	a_____	child_____	that	hope	was.
Light,_____	whom	an - gels	heard,		come	forth	a -	gain,_____	our	hearts	con -
us_____	your	ho - ly_____	way.		Be	born	a -	gain,_____	E - ter -	nal_____	
streets_____	with	heaven - ly_____	Light		till	ev - ery_____	heart_____	in	Christ	shall	



born,	a	dream	ful -	filled!_____	O	hap - py_____	morn!	
sole.	O	heal	our	hurts_____	and	make	us_____	whole.
Fire.	O	Spir - it	come,_____	our	souls	in -	spire.	
see	the	glo - ry	of_____	e -	ter - ni -	ty!		

* **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
Tina Bottini

Music Director
Ben April

Elder of the Day
Karl Coté

Sound Technician
Mike York

Deacon of the Day
Marv Helf

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Liturgist
Vicki Lane

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Coffee Hour Host
Maggie George

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Rejoice, All You!

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Send Out Your Light

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Lord Jesus Christ

Text: Psalm 139; Taizé Community
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Lord, Be Glorified

Contributors: Bob Kilpatrick
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We Three Kings

Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr, arr. Patti Drennan ©
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A Star Shone Bright

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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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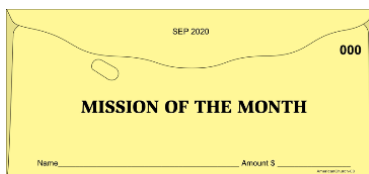
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

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

January 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 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.



**701 Sand Creek Road, Colonie, NY 12205
Telephone: 518-869-5589**

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

Happy
NEW
YEAR!

