



The Christian Soul Accepts the Cross (1630) by unknown | Museo Del Prado

The First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 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

For Contemplation

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

From President Theodore Roosevelt’s speech, "Citizenship In A Republic," delivered at the Sorbonne, in Paris, France on April 23, 1910

PRELUDE “Sometimes Our Only Song is Weeping”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER - Karl

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES OF LENT

LENTEN INTROIT “Take, O Take Me As I Am” (3 times)

This Lent, four symbols will be brought forward during the Lenten Introit. They symbolize the primary ways the living Word of God meets us:

1. **The Bible**, symbolizing the Word of God who still speaks to us today.
2. **A Drape** for the Cross, symbolizing the Word of God who became flesh and gave himself in love, showing us “The Way” to live.
3. **A Pitcher**, symbolizing the Word of God who washes, claims, and gives us a vocation in the waters of baptism.
4. **A Plate & Cup**, symbolizing the Word of God who feeds and sustains us at his table of reconciliation and fellowship.

May the words of this introit be our honest prayer this Lent.

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 4/4 time and the key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes.

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The second system of the musical score also consists of two staves in the same key and time signature as the first. The melody continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The lyrics are written below the notes.

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Mark 8

Who might we become if we are to follow Jesus?

We will only know if we dare to do so.

In order to follow him, Jesus says we must take up our cross,

and lose our life for his sake.

When we do this—when we take up our cross and lose our life—

Jesus says we will find true life.

* OPENING HYMN “Take Up Your Cross” O WALY WALY (v.1-4)



1. Take up your cross,	the Sav-ior said,	If you would
2. Take up your cross,	let not its weight	Fill your weak
3. Take up your cross,	heed not the shame,	And let your
4. Take up your cross,	then, in his strength,	And calm - ly
5. Take up your cross,	and fol-low Christ,	Nor think till



my dis - ci - ple be;	Take up your cross	with will - ing
spir - it with a - larm;	His strength shall bear	your spir - it
fool - ish heart be still;	The Lord for you	ac - cept - ed
ev - 'ry dan - ger brave:	It guides you to	a bet - ter
death to lay it down;	For on - ly those	who bear the



heart,	And hum - bly fol -	low af - ter me.
up,	And brace your heart	and nerve your arm.
death	Up - on a cross,	on Cal - v'ry's hill.
home	And leads to vic -	t'ry o'er the grave.
cross	May hope to wear	the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.

Tune: O WALY WALY, LM; English; harm. by Martin West, b.1929, © 1983. Hope Publishing Co.

PROFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 88-90*

Q. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

A. ***Two things: The dying-away of the old self,
and the rising-to-life of the new.***

Q. What is the dying-away of the old self?

A. ***To be genuinely sorry for sin
and more and more to hate it
and run away from it.***

Q. What is the rising-to-life of the new self?

A. ***Wholehearted joy in God through Christ,
and a love and delight to live according to the will of God
by doing every kind of good work.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Into My Heart” (3 times)

***Into my heart, into my heart; come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay; come into my heart, Lord Jesus.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Burden-lifting God, we shoulder worries, fears, and guilt of
immense proportions. We also admit that we carry what was
never meant for us to carry alone, and now our souls are weary.***

***Thank you for forgiving what we have done and what we have left
undone. Help us to accept the rest you offer for our souls. Free us
from the false burdens we carry. Strengthen us instead for the
cross that is truly ours to carry, the daily surrender of love. For
when we carry the cross we’re meant to, we’ll truly live. Amen.***

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.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Based on Matthew 11:28-30

SUMMARY OF GOD'S LAW Based on Mark 8:34-35

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Please rise and greet one another with Christ's peace.

You're encouraged to embrace, shake hands, or give the Orthodox sign of Christ's peace, greeting both those in-person and online. To make the sign, touch your thumb to the tip of your ring finger.

When the music starts to play, the children are invited to come forward for the children's message.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Sarah

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.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

You're invited to participate in the mission of The Community Reformed Church of Colonie by giving through the offering plates as they come by, placing your gift in the box at the back, or using Zeffy on our website.

* **DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

ANTHEM "It Is Well"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cross-bearing Lord, turn us from human thinking and give us the courage and strength to daringly follow you and live. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Numbers 14:1-4 & Mark 8:27-38 (CEB)

The entire community raised their voice and the people wept that night. All the Israelites criticized Moses and Aaron. The entire community said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt or if only we had died in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our children will be taken by force. Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to each other, "Let's pick a leader and let's go back to Egypt."

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

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

"And what about you? Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asked. Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and

follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

This is the Gospel of The Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

SERMON "The Dare of the Christian Life"

Imposition of Ashes & Hanging of The Cross

*** SONG OF PREPARATION** "Sign Us With Ashes"

Refrain:

G D Em Bm Am⁷ G Am⁷ D

Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci - ful God, chil-dren of dust, as to dust we re turn.

G D Gm Dm Am⁷ D G(SUS⁴) G *end after final verse*

Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.____

D G C G D G

Sure - ly, you a - lone can free us. You break the bonds of guilt and sin.
 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - fine us. You give us grace for lives made new,
 Sure - ly, you a - lone re-deem us. You fill our dust with ho - ly breath.

D G C G D(SUS⁴) D *to refrain*

Brac - ing, till we walk up-right - ly, you bol-ster our hope once a - gain.____
 forg - ing, through your fire and ra-diance, a sac - ri - fice wor - thy for you.____
 Burst-ing from the grave in glo - ry, you rise from the ash - es of death!____

MEDITATION & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please write on your paper what you'd like to give up or take on this Lent.
Go forward and nail it to the cross. Someone will help you.
Then receive ashes and return to your seat.

* 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 Coté

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Liturgist
Kyrra April

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Music Director
Ben April

Soloist
Kevin Ingalls

Sound Technician
Mike York

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

Coffee Hour Host
Outreach Committee

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Words & Music: John Bell

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Into My Heart

Words & Music: Harry D. Clarke,
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Lord Jesus Christ

Text: Psalm 139; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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It Is Well

Words & Music: Kristene DiMarco
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Sign Us With Ashes (GtG 433)

Words: Mary Louise Bringle
Music: William P. Rowan
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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 Zeffy (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.

Zeffy

<https://tinyurl.com/CRCC-Offerings>



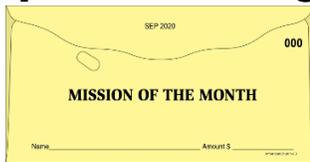
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

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

February Special Offering Envelopes -



**Community Reformed Church of Colonie
Puzzle Capital Campaign**



Each puzzle piece is a \$50 donation

This gift will be above and beyond my/our annual pledged offering.

Purchase thru Zeffy link or QR code: [Puzzle Capital Campaign](#)





Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com
&
Sandy Cornwell
crccsandy@gmail.com

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Rev. Trey Tirpak, Pastor
treytirpak@crccpastor.org

Lori Coté
Church Administrator & Bookkeeper
crcclori@gmail.com

Ben April,
Director of Music Ministries
benapril27@gmail.com

Sarah Huiest,
Youth Coordinator &
Communication/Media Coordinator
crccsarah@gmail.com

Cameron Kaercher
Technical Director
Camkaercher@gmail.com

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
Telephone: 518-869-5589**

**Website - www.communityreformedchurch.com
Facebook - [facebook.com/coloniereformed](https://www.facebook.com/coloniereformed)
Twitter - @ColonieReformed**

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday - February 18th

Ashes to Go 7-9AM & 3-5PM

Worship 7PM

Lenten Brunch - February 22nd after worship

Second Sunday of Lent - March 1st

Communion Sunday

Lenten Devotional after worship

Service of Healing & Restoration - March 22nd

Lenten Devotional after worship

Palm Sunday - March 29th

Lenten Processional 10AM

All Members Class after worship

Good Friday - April 3rd

Tenebrae Worship 7PM

Holy Saturday - April 4th

Prayer Labyrinth 10AM-1PM

Easter Sunday - April 5th

New Member Sunday

Children's Activity after worship

Final Lenten Devotional - April 12th after worship

Questions? Contact Pastor Trey treytirpak@crccpastor.org