

a fluorescent cross (2019) by David Libeert

Justice Sunday
January 25, 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

Hope is risk; especially when you’ve known what it is to dream for better and only be met with the tyranny of degradation, greed, and violent appetites.

But despair is a concession.

Be careful of who you let regulate your dreaming. Always remember who benefits from your hopelessness.

From “Staying Human” by Black Liturgies

PRELUDE “Empty Me”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

PRAYER SHAWL - The prayer shawl this morning is for Carol Grasso. She is healing following a car accident she was involved in.

THE ELDER'S PRAYER – Linda

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “We Will Make No Peace With Oppression”

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Matthew 25

When the Child of Humanity's bright glory is to be revealed, all the nations will be gathered before him

and Christ will separate people who truly knew him from those who only claimed him in name and not deed.

Christ will say to them: Come, you who are blessed, inherit the kingdom
for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.'

But the righteous will say, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? When was it that we saw you as a stranger and welcomed you or when was it that you were naked and we gave you clothing? When was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And he will respond,

Truly, just as you did it to least of these, you did it to me.

We gather to worship the Christ who hides himself
in the faces of the hungry, the lonely, and the oppressed.

Let us worship the One who becomes the least, and follow his light into lives of mercy, justice, and love!

* OPENING SONG "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

D A G A D

 I want to walk as a child of the light;
 I want to see the brightness of God;
 I'm looking for the coming of Christ;
 I want to follow
 I want to look at
 I want to be with

A Bm D F#m G A D

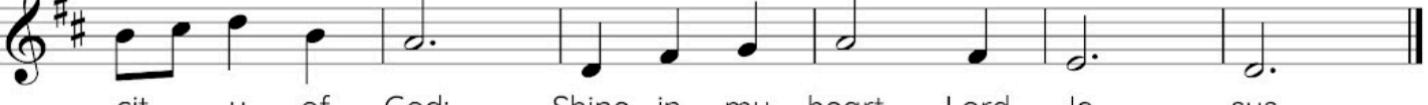
 Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and show me the
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we shall know the

A E7 A D G D A Bm

 life is Je - sus. In Him there is no dark-ness at all; the night and the
 way to the Fa - ther.
 joy of Je - sus.

D F#m A Em F#m

 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

G A D

 cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

PROFESSION OF FAITH *The Accra Confession § 24, 25, & 26a*

We believe that God is a God of justice. In a world of corruption, exploitation and greed, God is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, the exploited, the wronged and the abused. God calls for just relationships with all creation.

Therefore we reject any ideology or economic regime that puts profits before people, does not care for all creation and privatizes those gifts of God meant for all. We reject any teaching which justifies those who support, or fail to resist, such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

We believe that God calls us to stand with those who are victims of injustice. We know what the Lord requires of us: to do justice, love kindness, and walk in God's way...

EPIPHANY PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION “Send Out Your Light” (3 times)



Musical notation for the first line of the Epiphany Prayer for Illumination, in G clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Send out your light, Lord, send your truth to be my guide.



Musical notation for the second line of the Epiphany Prayer for Illumination, in G clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Then let them lead me to the place where you re - side.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Crucified God, we confess that we long for the world's wisdom —wisdom that protects privilege, explains away suffering, accumulates power, and intentionally overpowers the vulnerable.

Because we cannot free ourselves from these distorted desires, we ask for your Spirit to search and transform us.

Holy Spirit, the One who enabled Christ to endure the cross and rise again, search us now. Show us where we desire the world's wisdom more than the way of the cross, and then draw our eyes to the cross of Christ, so we might know the wisdom of God and truly live.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Shepherd Me, O God” (3 times)

***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUMMARY OF GOD’S LAW

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Sarah

DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD - Jessica

ANTHEM “Reckless Love of God”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, make us witnesses of the cross, seeing both its horror and its hope, and then give us the strength to live in light of it. In the name of the crucified One we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Corinthians 2 (CEB)

When I came to you, siblings, I didn’t come preaching God’s secrets to you like I was an expert in speech or wisdom. I had made up my mind not to think about anything while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and to preach him as crucified. I stood in front of you with weakness, fear, and a lot of shaking. My message and my preaching weren’t presented with convincing wise words but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power. I did this so that your faith might not depend on the wisdom of people but on the power of God.

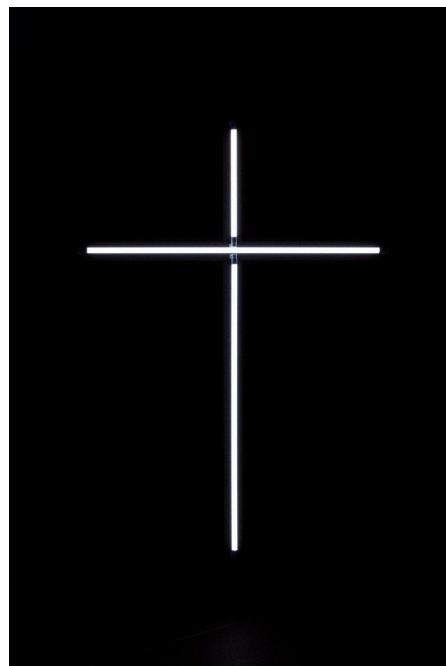
What we say is wisdom to people who are mature. It isn’t a wisdom that comes from the present day or from today’s leaders who are being reduced to nothing. We talk about God’s wisdom, which has been hidden as a secret. God determined this wisdom in advance, before time began, for our glory. It is a wisdom that none of the present-day rulers have understood, because if they did understand it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory! But this is precisely what is written:

God has prepared things for those who love him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven’t crossed the mind of any human being.

God has revealed these things to us through the Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, including the depths of God. Who knows a person's depths except their own spirit that lives in them? In the same way, no one has known the depths of God except God's Spirit. We haven't received the world's spirit but God's Spirit so that we can know the things given to us by God. These are the things we are talking about—not with words taught by human wisdom but with words taught by the Spirit—we are interpreting spiritual things to spiritual people. But people who are unspiritual don't accept the things from God's Spirit. They are foolishness to them and can't be understood, because they can only be comprehended in a spiritual way. Spiritual people comprehend everything, but they themselves aren't understood by anyone. Who has known the mind of the Lord, who will advise him? But we have the mind of Christ.

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

SERMON “Witness to the Cross”



* **SONG OF RESPONSE** “Stand for What is Right”

Stand for What is Right



When in - jus - tice harms our friends, stand for what is right.
When the chil - dren have no voice, speak for what is right.
When we hurt our moth - er earth, work for what is right.
When the world seems most un - fair, pray for what is right.



When the vio - lence nev - er ends, stand for what is right.
When the moth - ers have no choice, speak for what is right.
When we de - ny each oth - er's worth, work for what is right.
When we're lost in deep de - spair, pray for what is right.



Yes, stand and speak, work and pray and keep your cour-age strong. The



Spir - it of God will be lead-ing us through our whole life long.

* **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

Music Director
Ben April

Elder of the Day
Linda Murphy

Soloist
Brian Rhode

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Liturgist
Vicki Lane

Video Technician
Lori Coté

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Welcome Host/Coffee Hour Host
Beth Colbert

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Stand for What is Right
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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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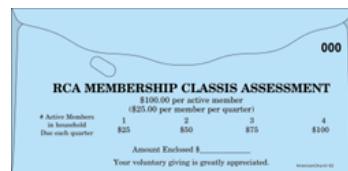
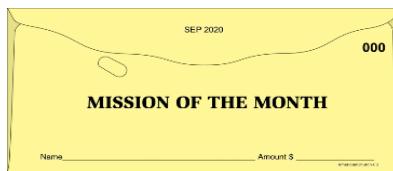
Website:

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
&
Sandy Cornwell
crccsandy@gmail.com

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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CONSISTORY

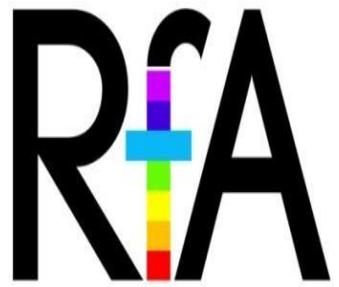
Elders

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
Telephone: 518-869-5589**

**Website - www.communityreformedchurch.com
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