



“St. John the Baptist” illuminated manuscript from *The Saint John's Bible*

The Second Sunday of Advent | Peace Sunday  
December 7, 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

### **Today we are celebrating Christmas Communion**

In the celebration of Communion, all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to the Table. Please hold the elements until all have received them that we may commune together.

That all may celebrate fully and safely, we use gluten free bread.

All communion cups contain grape juice.

*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**

Love and faithfulness meet together;  
justice and peace kiss each other.  
Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
and righteousness looks down from heaven.  
The Lord will indeed give what is good,  
and our land will yield its harvest.  
Righteousness goes before him  
and prepares the way for his steps.

*Psalms 85:10-13*

### **PRELUDE "Wonders of His Love"**

### **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**PRAYER Shawl** - The prayer shawl out today is for Kevin Bottini's cousin Sherri, who is facing health challenges. After worship, please come forward to lay hands on the shawl and say a prayer for Sherri.

### **THE ELDER'S PRAYER** – Vicki



## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES | The Bottini Family

Out of darkness a light shines.

***Out of the silence, a voice cries:***

***“Prepare the way of the Lord.”***

From a dead stump, shoots grow.

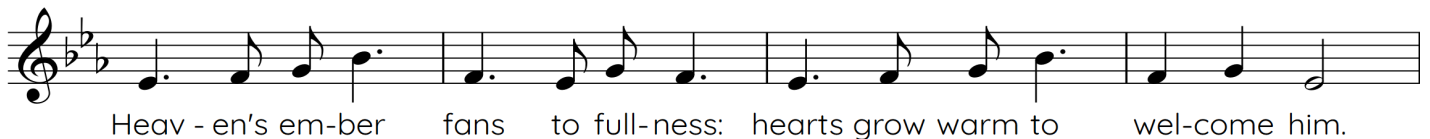
***Out of chaos, people will flourish,***

for justice and peace shall kiss.

***Today we continue the Advent journey.***

Today we light the candle of peace.

### INTROIT “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”



### CALL TO WORSHIP prayer by Joanna Harader

We come to prepare the way;

***The way for Christ—***

the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ—

***to enter our world, to enter our hearts.***

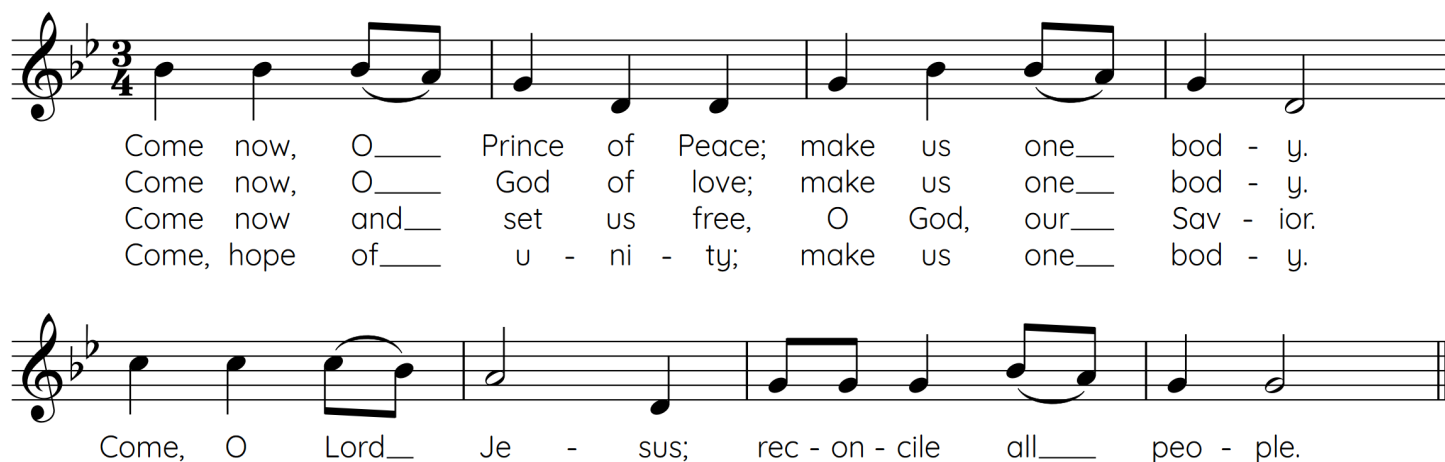
We cry out together in the wilderness:

***The kingdom of heaven has come near.***

We come to be part of the light –

***the light that shines in the darkness.***

\* **OPENING SONG** “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”



Come now, O\_\_\_ Prince of Peace; make us one\_\_\_ bod - y.  
Come now, O\_\_\_ God of love; make us one\_\_\_ bod - y.  
Come now and\_\_\_ set us free, O God, our\_\_\_ Sav - ior.  
Come, hope of\_\_\_ u - ni - ty; make us one\_\_\_ bod - y.

Come, O Lord\_\_\_ Je - sus; rec - on - cile all\_\_\_ peo - ple.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** “O Day of Peace” | YE BANKS AND BRAES

***O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God’s grace our warring world  
shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.***

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald’s urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom.***

***Baptize us again in the cleansing fire of your Spirit so that our lives may prepare the way for Christ’s coming. Burn away our indifference to oppression, and kindle in us a courage to be agents of light and life.***

***Enable us to see where our lives harm others, and then help us convert our ways into the ways of justice.***

***Empower us to liberate the marginalized and to love both our neighbors and our enemies. Amen.***



## TAIZE RESPONSE “Prepare the Way of the Lord” (3 times)



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON based on Malachai 3

## SUMMARY OF GOD’S LAW based on Isaiah 58:6-12

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Vicki

## DEACON’S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Kevin

## 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 “The Fearsome Trail”

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION | Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV

***“Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long.” Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 3:1-12 (CEB)

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,  
“*Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight.*”

John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, ‘Abraham is our father.’ I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. Those of you who have changed your hearts and lives, I baptize with water. But, the one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I’m not worthy to even carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

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

**Sermon** “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!”

# CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

## THE CALL TO COMMUNION

We have one Lord, one God, one Savior.

***The Holy Spirit makes Christ real to us, binding us in one,  
as we share him together.***

This is something we do eagerly.

***Christ welcomes us here.***

This is something we do seriously.

***For this is the moment of greatest intimacy when we take  
the symbols of the body and blood of the risen Lord.***

***I was glad when they said to me,***

***"Let us go into the presence of the Lord."***

## A CHRISTMAS CONFESSION OF FAITH

"What Child is This?" GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing,

whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?

***I believe that Jesus Christ—true God, son of the Father from  
eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary—is my Lord.***

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

***At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.***

Why lies He in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good

Chris - tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.

***Not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.***



Nails, spear\_ shall pierce him through, the cross be borne\_ for me, for you;

hail, hail\_ the Word made flesh,\_ the babe,\_ the son\_ of Ma - ry.

***All this He has done that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,***

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh,\_ come, peas - ant, king,\_ to own\_ him.

The King of kings\_ sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts\_ en - throne him.

***Just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.***

Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

***This is most certainly true.***

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
since as members of one body you were called to peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.  
***And also with you.***

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.  
***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

## THE PREFACE

It is right and good to give you thanks, Almighty God. You have given us the Word made flesh, and through our baptism we are blessed to share in the healing and reconciling love of Christ. Therefore, in all times and places your people proclaim your glory in unending praise:

## \* A HYMN OF PRAISE "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new-born King: peace on earth, and

mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, —

join the tri - umph of the skies: — with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is — born in

Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new-born King."

## THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

The Holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope: we remember with joy the grace by which God created all things and made us in God's own image.

***We rejoice that God called a people in covenant  
to be a light to the nations.***

Yet we rebelled against God's will.

***In spite of the prophets sent forth to us,  
we continued to break the covenant.***

In the fullness of time, God sent God's only Son to save us.

***Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary,  
sharing our life, Christ reconciled us to God's love.***

At the Jordan, God's Spirit descended upon Him, anointing Him to preach the good news of God's reign.

***He healed the sick and fed the hungry,  
manifesting the power of God's compassion.***

He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of God's grace.

***We beheld His glory.***

On the night before He died for us, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with His disciples.

***After the meal our Lord was arrested,  
abandoned by His followers and beaten.***

He stood trial and was put to death on a cross.

***Having emptied himself in the form of a servant,  
and being obedient even to death, He was raised from the  
dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.***

Through him God bestows the gift of the Spirit, uniting the church, empowering its mission and leading us into the new creation God has promised.

***By His death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ has  
obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one  
body. We therefore receive this Supper in true and  
unconditional love.***

**THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

## THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

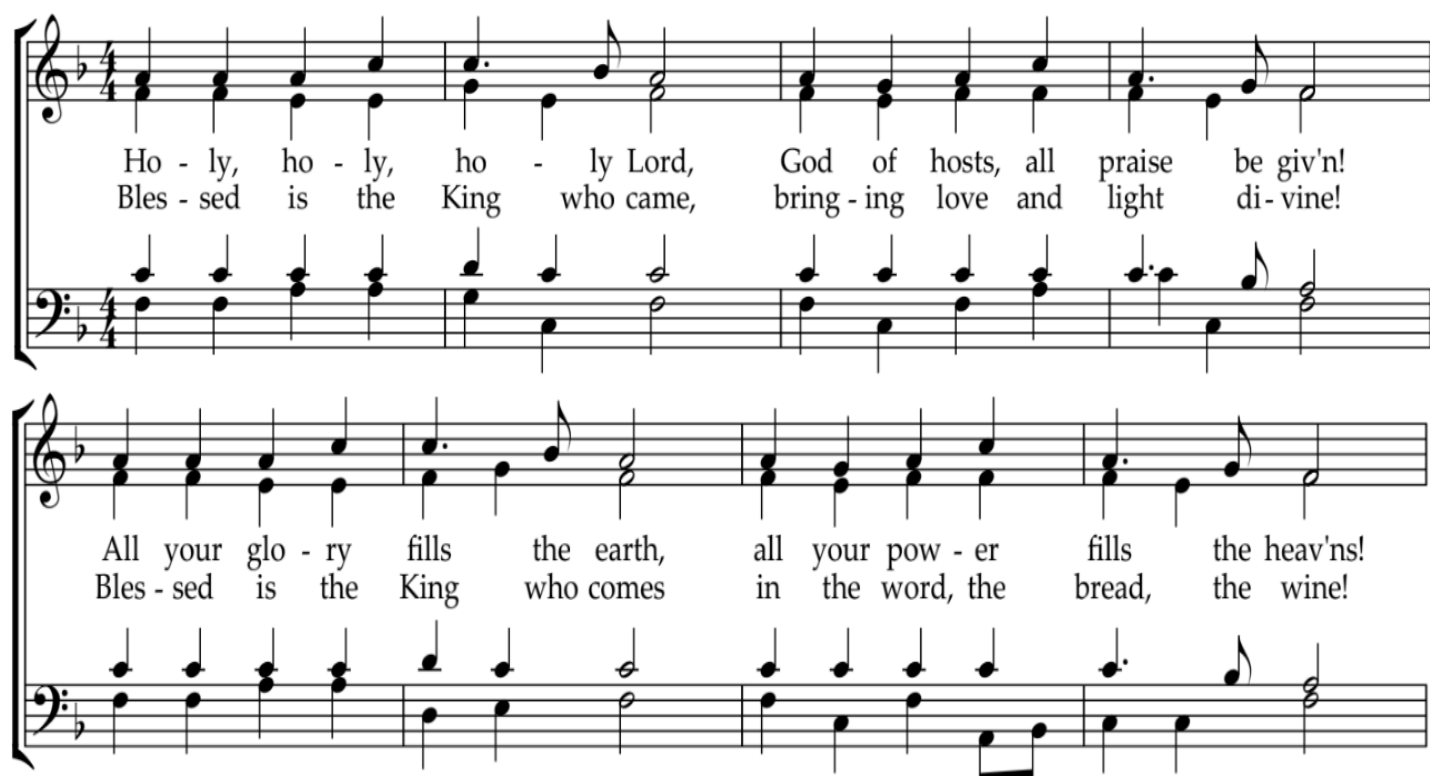
***Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:***



Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!

This musical notation is for a hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!"

*The epiclesis prayer is given:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all praise be giv'n!  
Bles - sed is the King who came, bring - ing love and light di - vine!

All your glo - ry fills the earth, all your pow - er fills the heav'ns!  
Bles - sed is the King who comes in the word, the bread, the wine!

This musical notation is for a hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all praise be giv'n! Bles - sed is the King who came, bring - ing love and light di - vine! All your glo - ry fills the earth, all your pow - er fills the heav'ns! Bles - sed is the King who comes in the word, the bread, the wine!"

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## COMMUNION

## SUNG RESPONSE

*unison*

Lord, now in your mer - cy your ser - vants re - lease as your word as pro - mised, oh grant us your  
A light to the gen - tiles, by whom they now see the glo - ry of Is - rael, the pro mised one



peace. Our eyes your sal - va - tion and mer - cy be -  
He who lives now and ev - er, the hea - ven's bright

hold, pre - pared for the na - tions, as pro - phets fore - told.  
sun, with Fa - ther and Spi - rit e - ter - nal - ly one.

***Since, at your table, Dear God, we have touched, we have tasted, we have heard, and we have seen the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you, and overflowing with your love for those who are around us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.***

**\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

## \* THE AARONIC BLESSING

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The lyrics are: 'The Lord now bless and keep you all and make God's face to shine; Lift up God's face with shin-ing grace and grant you\_ peace div - ine. To Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit, E - ter - nal three in one, all glo - ry be e - ter - nal - ly. A - men! So be it done.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last line.

The Lord now bless and keep you all and make God's face to shine;

Lift up God's face with shin - ing grace and grant you\_ peace div - ine.

To Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit, E - ter - nal three in one,

all glo - ry be e - ter - nal - ly. A - men! So be it done.

## DEDICATING & BLESSING OUR BUILDING PROJECTS

We'll have a brief 5-10 minute period after the service to get coffee and refreshments. Those who are able to stay are invited to return to their seats (feel free to bring your refreshments) for a short word and a time of dedication and blessing for our many building projects over the past two years.

## WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Leader  
**Rev. Trey Tirpak**

Elder of the Day  
**Vicki Lane**

Deacon of the Day  
**Kevin Bottini**

Liturgist  
**Pam Izzo**

Children's Message  
**Vicki Lane**

Music Director  
**Ben April**

Soloist  
**Michele Braungard**

Sound Technician  
**Jerry Kallner**

Video Technician  
**Cameron Kaercher**

Welcome Host  
**Lou Ann Connelly**

Coffee Hour Host  
**Deb Helf**

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### **Wonders of His Love**

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### **Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**

Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2006 GIA Publications  
Music: Welsh Melody, arr. Thomas Keesecker  
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### **Come Now, O Prince of Peace (GtG 103)**

Words & Music: Geonyong Lee © 1988 Geonyong  
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### **O Day of Peace (GtG 373)**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr, 1982  
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1916;  
harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987  
Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Company  
Music: Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House  
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### **Prepare the Way of the Lord (GtG 95)**

Text: Taizé Community, 1984  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984  
Text and Music: © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé  
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### **The Fearsome Trail**

Words: Nelson Koscheski  
Music: Ryan Flanigan  
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### **This is the Threefold Truth**

Words: Fred Pratt Green  
Music: Jack Schrader  
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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:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=YTAGDC7646FY2](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=YTAGDC7646FY2)



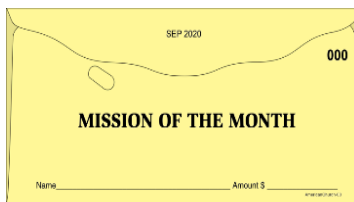
**Website:**

[www.communityreformedchurch.com](http://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](mailto:kmlatta@nycap.rr.com)  
&  
Karen Reynolds  
[kreynolds150@gmail.com](mailto:kreynolds150@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

### STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

**Rev. Trey Tirpak, Pastor**  
[treytirpak@crccpastor.org](mailto:treytirpak@crccpastor.org)

**Lori Coté**  
Church Administrator & Bookkeeper  
[crccclori@gmail.com](mailto:crccclori@gmail.com)

**Ben April,**  
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Youth Coordinator &  
Communication/Media Coordinator  
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**Cameron Kaercher**  
Technical Director  
[camkaercher@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.communityreformedchurch.org)  
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