



Image created by Aubree Dockal, who had her first communion this year

Christmas Eve 2025



On behalf of The Community Reformed Church of Colonie, I welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ to our Christmas Eve worship service! My prayer for you tonight is that you encounter anew the hope, peace, joy, and love of God.

A common Christmas tradition is sending Christmas cards and letters, sharing updates and inviting others into our joy, and I'd like to do just that here:

A significant change this year is that I've become the new pastor here at CRCC. The congregation has so warmly welcomed me and my husband, and I'm deeply grateful to be part of this creative and close-knit community of faith.

Another change this year is our newly renovated welcome way, church offices, new bathrooms (one is inclusive and accessible with a baby changing station), and an updated washer-dryer area for our daycare. Take a look!

I'm also filled with joy to share that God continues to bless us in our life of faith together. This year, we baptized and welcomed numerous new members, and celebrated first communions and confirmations. We also continued to walk with one another through life's challenges, deaths, and griefs. Through it all, we worshiped the One who is always faithful, always loving.

So if you're looking for a place to belong, let me invite you to CRCC. We have wonderful worship services, ministries, and small groups, but I think our greatest strength is that we are a community that really tries. Really tries to wrestle with faith in the 21st century, really tries to care for one another and the wider world, really tries to be people who belong to Jesus and his Way. So consider this an open invitation to give Jesus and us a try! You can explore more about CRCC on our website and on the next page.

Whatever brings you here tonight and wherever your journey leads tomorrow, may you know God's loving presence. Merry Christmas - Rev. Trey Tirpak

The Community Reformed Church of Colonie



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Care Team Collections
Missions of the Month
Prayer Chain
Meals for Homeless Shelter
Marching in Pride Parade



CREATION CARE

We honor God's creation by striving to use sustainable practices and learning how to be better stewards of the Earth.

Our mission is to
"Love the Lord our God with
all our heart, with all our soul,
and with all our mind; and to
love our neighbors as
ourselves."

Matthew 22:37-40



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sanctuary Worship with
Music 10:00 AM
Live on Zoom
Recordings on YouTube

Outdoor Worship 9:00 AM
*First Sunday in June to
Labor Day*

FOR CHILDREN

Sunday School: 9:00-9:30 AM
Classes for Children Pre-K-12th grade
Nursery: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Childcare for infants-4 years old
Family Ministries: Monthly
Fun faith building activities for the
whole family
Youth Group: Monthly
Community Service for grades 6-12th
Confirmation Class
Children at the Lord's Table



FOR ADULTS

Bible Study Groups
Sew and Reap Quilting Group
Shirley's Prayer Shawl Ministry
Book Group

If you would like to connect more with us,
please fill out a connection card →
and place it in the basket in the back.



You can give to CRCC by placing your gift in the offering box in the back or via PayPal (QR code to the right or link on our website). You can also mail checks or give through a direct bank transfer.

Welcome!

Christmas Eve Extended Prelude

Enjoy the following musical selections as you enter the sanctuary:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Traditional Carol)

Sarah Huiest, violin

All is Well (Wayne Kirkpatrick/Michael W. Smith)

Marv Helf, tenor

In the Bleak Midwinter (Traditional, arr. Sarah McLachlan)

Michele Braungard, tenor

Were You There on that Christmas Night (Natalie Sleeth)

Tina Bottini, alto

The First Noel (Traditional, arr. Dave Koz)

Bert Huiest, saxophone

O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam)

Marissa Lombardo, soprano

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella (Traditional Carol)

Cristine LaPaix, alto

All We Want For Christmas is Peace (Joel Raney)

Kevin Ingalls, bass

Lo, How a Rose (Traditional, arr. J.B. Taylor)

Benjamin April, piano



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”.

Please join in the worship liturgy by reading aloud what is in ***bold italics***.

* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

For Contemplation

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.”

Isaiah 9:2 (CEB)

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS Pastor Trey Tirpak

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday & Friday, December 25 & 26: Church & Daycare closed

Sunday, December 28: Christmas Sunday

This service will focus on the story and messages of Christmas using the Visual Commentary on Scripture to reflect on Christmas artworks, sing beloved carols, and celebrate the wonder of God becoming human.

Wednesday & Thursday, December 31 & January 1: Daycare Closed

Thursday & Friday, January 1st & 2nd: Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 4th: Epiphany Sunday

We’ll celebrate Epiphany and share Star Words to guide us into 2026.
We’ll also put away our Advent/Christmas decorations after worship.

Monday, January 5th: Pastor Trey is back

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE | The Lombardo Family

Out of the darkness,

light has come.

Out of the silence,

an angel proclaims,

“Do not be afraid!

***Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy,
which shall be for all people!***

For unto you is born this day in the city of David,

a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!”

As the prophets of old foretold:

From a dead stump, a shoot sprouts.

This means that the world is not completely lost;

God is still at work, and that changes everything.

Hope is not naive.

Peace is possible.

Joy is coming.

Love is as real as a newborn baby.

Tonight, our Advent journey comes to an end

because God’s promises are fulfilled

in the birth of the Messiah, our savior.

Tonight, we light the Christ candle

to show that God is with us, Emmanuel.

INTROIT “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

CALL TO WORSHIP

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of heavenly host praising God and saying,

Gloria in excelsis Deo—Glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth, and good will to all people!

Tonight, that first Noel still echoes.

Love’s holy child brings dawn to our night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,

born is the King of Israel, our Emmanuel!

So come and see! Greet the child who is God incarnate!
God of God, Light of Light.
***“Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning!
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!”***

*** OPENING SONG** “Joyful Tidings: A Christmas Medley”

***Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

***The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.***

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the king of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

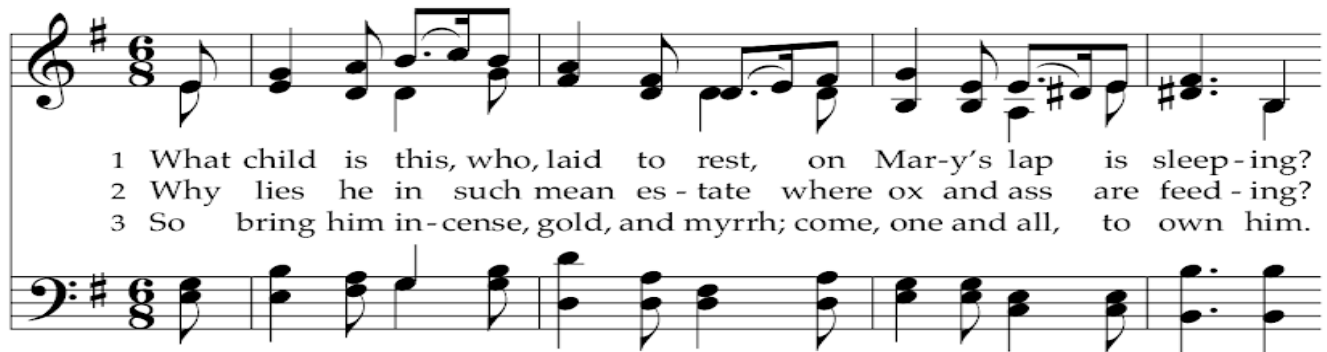
***Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

PROFESSION OF FAITH A portion of *The Nicene Creed*

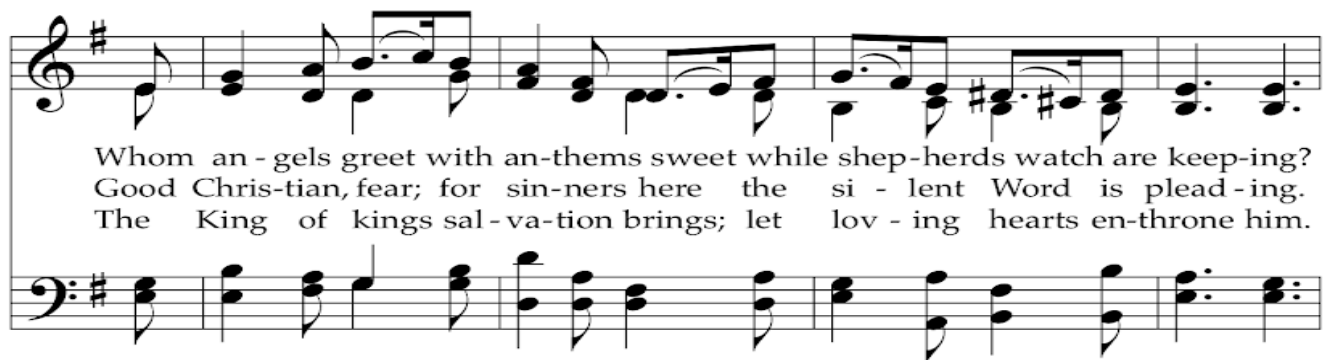
***I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only begotten of the Father, before all worlds;
God of God, Light of light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.***

**Who, for us and our salvation,
came down from heaven,
and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made human.**

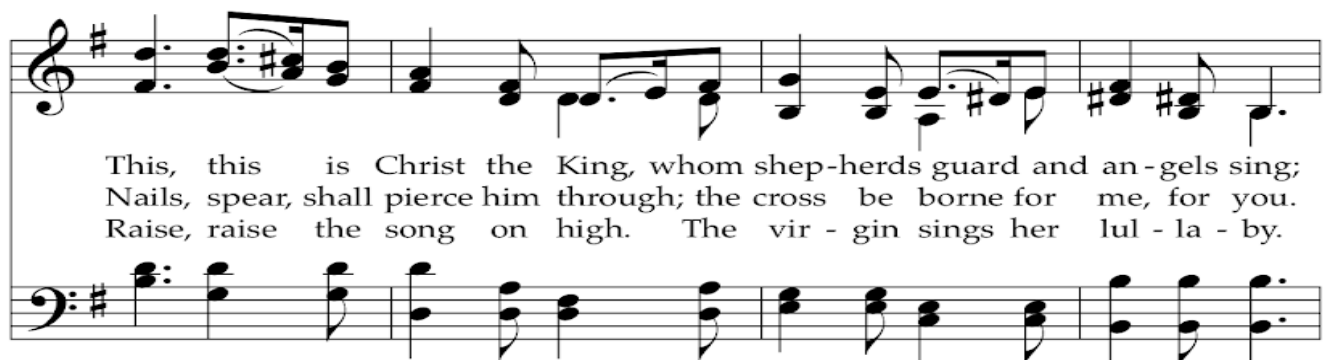
SUNG RESPONSE “What Child Is This?”



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of presence, tonight you have entered our world, so we confess how we resist you and the ways you call us to live:

***We resist your coming when we cling to the familiar and the safe, instead of trusting the new life you are bringing.
Make us people of hope and anticipation.***

***We resist your coming when we ignore or even advocate for violence, whether that violence be political or interpersonal.
Make us agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation.***

***We resist your coming when we are so wrapped up in ourselves, trapped in greed and endless consumption.
Make us people of gratitude, joy, and generosity.***

Forgive us, God. Teach us to receive your love the way we would hold a newborn for the first time: cradling them in wonder, attentive to what they might want us to do, and forever changed by the miracle we now hold. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE "I Wonder as I Wander"

Unison

1. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
 2. When Ma - ry birthed Je - sus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with
 3. If Je - sus had want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
 4. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, but
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for

poor ordi - nary peo - ple like you and like I; I
 high from God's heav - en a star's light did fall, the
 all of God's an - gels in heaven for to sing, he
 poor ordi - nary peo - ple like you and like I; I

Optional Coda

won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
 prom - ise of a - ges it then did re - call.
 sure - ly could have it, 'cause he was the King.
 won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky. Out un - der the sky.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON John 3:16-17

SUMMARY OF GOD'S LAW Matthew 22:37-39

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER – Elder Vicki Lane and Deacon Kevin Bottini

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 “How Great Our Joy”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of the manger, speak to us through your Word. Open our eyes to the depth of your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:1-7 (CEB)

In those days, Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled.

Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

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

A Christmas Message

CHORAL ANTHEM “In Bethlehem” (sung by choir)

Though the road was long, the time drew near, Heaven’s King on earth would soon appear. Yet, no bed prepared; no waiting crown. Just a stable near the edge of town. Here the Child was born so far from home to those weary travelers all alone. So they whispered low their soft amen, on that lonely night in Bethlehem.

Come behold the shepherds, oft unseen, chosen first to look though rough, unclean. ‘Tis the Christ! Now peace on earth begins: He will save his people from their sins. See our Mighty God has done great things! Hear the angel hosts his glories sing and repeat the sounding joy again on that holy night in Bethlehem.



THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION Based on John 1

* HYMN OF RESPONSE "Silent Night"

Please light the candle of those next to you

Descant

3. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

1. Si-lent night! ho-ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2. Si-lent night! ho-ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si-lent night! ho-ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Stil-le Nacht! hei-li-ge Nacht! Al-les schläft, ein-sam wacht

lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

'round yon vir-gin moth-er and Child, ho-ly in-fant so ten-der and
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heav-enly hosts sing Al-le-lu-
 ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-deem-ing
nur das trau-te, hoch-hei-li-ge Paar hold-er Kna-be im lock-i-gen

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth.

mild, sleep in heav-en-ly peace, sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 ia; Christ the Sav-ior is born, Christ the Sav-ior is born.
 grace, Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth.
Haar, schlaf in himm-lisch-er Ruh, schlaf in himm-lisch-er Ruh!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818; desc. Donald P. Hustad, 1989
 Desc. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular

* **A CHRISTMAS CHARGE** Based on 1 John 4

* **DEPARTING HYMN** "Joy to the World!"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

* **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Leader
Rev. Trey Tirpak

Elder of the Day
Vicki Lane

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Liturgist
Kyrra April

Welcome Host
Lori Coté
Cynthia Placek

Music Director
Ben April

Choir
Marissa Lombardo
Tina Bottini
Pam Izzo
Cristine LaPaix
Maggie George
Michele Braungard
Terry Cranfield
Kevin Ingalls
Marv Helf

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
Alex Huiest

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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.

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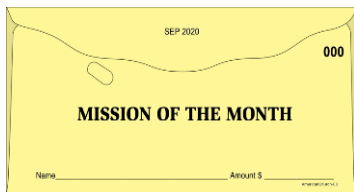
Website:

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 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**

