



*Path in the Wheat Fields at Pourville* (1882) by Claude Monet

Ascension & Consecration Sunday  
May 17, 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.

We welcome and thank you for worshiping with us today!

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

\* - Please rise in body or in spirit

## About Consecration Sunday

Today we celebrate Consecration Sunday, a day to prayerfully dedicate our gifts to God’s work in the coming fiscal year (September-August). During the service, those making a financial pledge for our next fiscal year will be invited forward to offer their pledge cards in prayer, asking God to bless and multiply these gifts for the sake of Christ’s kingdom. As Leviticus teaches God’s people to leave the corners of their fields for others, we too are reminded that all we have are gifts from God, meant to be shared in generosity, justice, and love.

## For Contemplation

“Generosity is a giving that comes from the knowledge of an intimate bond. True generosity is acting on the truth—not on the feeling—that those I am asked to give to are ‘kinfolk,’ and belong to my family. And whenever I act this way, that truth will become more visible to me for generosity creates the family it believes in.” - Fr. Henri Nouwen

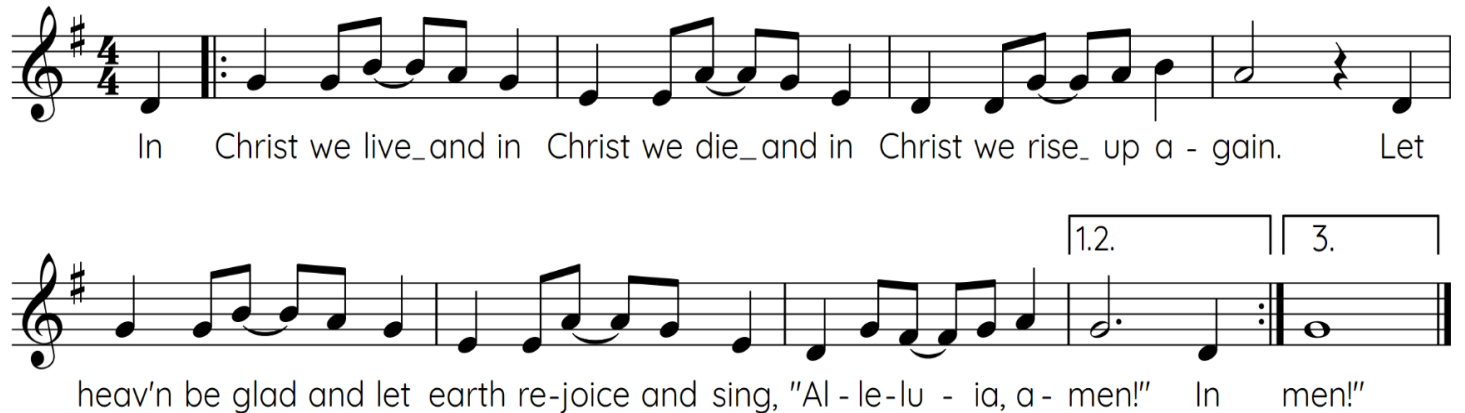
## PRELUDE "I Surrender All"

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

## THE ELDER'S PRAYER - Linda

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

## EASTERTIDE INTROIT "In Christ We Live"



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a melodic line with lyrics underneath: "In Christ we live\_and in Christ we die\_and in Christ we rise\_ up a - gain. Let". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "heav'n be glad and let earth re-joice and sing, 'Al - le - lu - ia, a - men!' In men!". The second staff includes first and second endings, indicated by boxes labeled "1.2." and "3." above the notes.

## CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Leviticus 19:9-18

Ever present God, you are here today, and we worship you!

***The light of Christ changes us and calls us to live differently.***

The earth and all our fields belong to you, O Lord.

***All we have is a gift, meant to be shared in love and justice.***

The Book of Leviticus told the people of God to leave the corners of their fields for the poor and the immigrant.

***Teach us to do the same with our fields, O God, and live with generosity, compassion, and justice.***

For "generosity creates the family it believes in."

***And we believe your family is wider than we can imagine!***

Come, let us worship our generous king, the risen and ascended Christ!

**\* OPENING SONG "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"**



Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, here on earth our  
 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph,  
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us;  
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful  
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y,



his the vic - to - ry a - lone! Hart! The songs of  
 faith be - lieves nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from  
 flee to you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor,  
 earth your foot - stool, hea - ven your throne. As with - in the



peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood;  
 sight re - veived him when the for - ty days were o'er,  
 friend of sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea  
 veil you en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;



"Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion  
 shall our hearts for - get his prom - ise:  
 where the songs of all the sin - less  
 here on earth both priest and vic - tim



has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH Q&A 49-51 of the *Heidelberg Catechism*

Q.49 - How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

A. ***First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge. By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.***

Q.50 - Why the next words?: "and is seated at the right hand of God"

A. ***Because Christ ascended to heaven to show that he is head of his church, the one through whom the Father rules all things.***

Q.51- How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?

A. ***First, through his Holy Spirit he pours out gifts from heaven upon us his members. Second, by his power he defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.***

## TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Sing Praises" (3 times)

***Sing praises, all you peoples,  
sing praises to the Lord.  
Sing praises, all you peoples,  
sing praises to the Lord!***

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***God, you are the "overflowing source of all good." Every good thing we have is a gift from you. We're sorry that we forget that, and so often live ungrateful lives. Remind us that you do not need our gratitude, but that you invite us to live lives of gratitude because it makes us strong, generous, and loving people—people who exude Christlikeness.***

***Send your Holy Spirit to help us loosen our grip on what we claim as solely our own, and, through gratitude, teach us to leave room at the edges of our lives for whatever you're up to. 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

## SUMMARY OF GOD’S LAW

## PASSING CHRIST’S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

***And also with you!***

Please greet one another in the sanctuary and online with Christ’s peace.



## 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

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** LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures  
 high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise  
 God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it  
 one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**ANTHEM** “The Lord's My Shepherd”

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

***Lord, illuminate your Word today; teach us to live as people transformed by your presence and ways of generosity. Amen.***

**FIRST LESSON** Matthew 22:34-40 (CEB)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

He replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

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

## **SECOND LESSON** Leviticus 19:9-18 (CEB)

When you harvest your land's produce, you must not harvest all the way to the edge of your field; and don't gather up every remaining bit of your harvest. Also do not pick your vineyard clean or gather up all the grapes that have fallen there. Leave these items for the poor and the immigrant; I am the Lord your God.

You must not steal nor deceive nor lie to each other. You must not swear falsely by my name, desecrating your God's name in doing so; I am the Lord. You must not oppress your neighbors or rob them. Do not withhold a hired laborer's pay overnight. You must not insult a deaf person or put some obstacle in front of a blind person that would cause them to trip. Instead, fear your God; I am the Lord.

You must not act unjustly in a legal case. Do not show favoritism to the poor or deference to the great; you must judge your fellow Israelites fairly. Do not go around slandering your people. Do not stand by while your neighbor's blood is shed; I am the Lord. You must not hate your fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your fellow Israelite strongly, so you don't become responsible for his sin. You must not take revenge nor hold a grudge against any of your people; instead, you must love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

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

**SERMON** The Gospel According to Leviticus

## Consecration Sunday Litany

### THE CONSECRATION OF OUR GIFTS

Beloved, you are a co-laborer in God's harvest. May your living and your giving be consecrated.

### \* LITANY OF CONSECRATION

In the beginning, God spoke and created.

***God created humanity to share in God's own bounty and blessing, co-laborers working for the world's flourishing.***

But when we rejected this purpose for humanity,

***God started to call a people who would hear the call and join in God's purposes for humanity and the world.***

Then God became one of us, to show us The Way, and it looks like this:

***"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind, and you must love your neighbor as you love yourself."***

And on Pentecost, Jesus sent us the Spirit,

***who transforms us through Christ's love and empowers us to fulfill our ministry of reconciliation, living no longer for ourselves but for God and for our neighbors—embracing God's original purpose for humanity.***

So, we have new life and new hope because we are a new people in Christ

***—a people who are inherently generous because we know that "every good and perfect gift" comes from God for this grand purpose.***

That's why, today, we give our grateful praise to the Giver of all things,

***offering back to God some of what has been entrusted for the purposes of Christ's kingdom, which is the flourishing of the world.***

As we offer our Giving Cards, we pray with the expectation that you will use these gifts for your great purposes,  
***which is why we also bring the offering of our lives, and give ourselves to Christ's kingdom, God's purpose for the world.***

May our gratitude and generosity be a fitting response to the presence of Christ among us.

***May our worship of God change us and the world.***

***May our fellowship be one where all belong,  
and all feel called to serve, using their gifts.***

***May our facilities be places of welcome and renewal.***

***May our community work and partnerships be collaborative.***

***May our justice work feed the hungry, clothe the naked,  
and give hope for the discouraged.***

To you, O God, we give these gifts!

***Use them for your purposes, and show us how we might join you. In Christ's name we pray; Amen.***



Matthew 6:21

***“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”***

# SENDING SONG "I, The Lord of Sea and Sky"

G Am D G C G D

*Leader or All*

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*  
 All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

\* **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**

Sound Technician  
**Mike York**

Deacon of the Day  
**Jessica Kaercher**

Video Technician  
**Cameron Kaercher**

Liturgist  
**Ana Crosbourne**

Welcome Host  
**Lori Coté**

Children's Message  
**Sarah Huiest**

Coffee Hour Host  
**Deb Helf**

Zoom Host  
**Melody York**

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I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord (GtG 69)  
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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.**

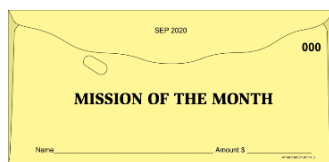
**Website:**

[www.communityreformedchurch.com](http://www.communityreformedchurch.com)

**Mailing Address:**

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

**May Special Offering Envelopes -**



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One link for all your giving:

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## Prayer E-Chain

**Please email prayer requests to:**

Karen Latta  
[kmlatta@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kmlatta@nycap.rr.com)  
&  
Sandy Cornwell  
[crccsandy@gmail.com](mailto: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.**



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Telephone: 518-869-5589**

**Website - [www.communityreformedchurch](http://www.communityreformedchurch)  
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