



The High Priest and Hannah (1896-1902) James Jacques Joseph Tissot

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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

"Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other ."

~Walter Elliot.

PRELUDE "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER'S PRAYER - Vicki

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

*** OPENING HYMN "Gather Us In"**



Here in this place new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



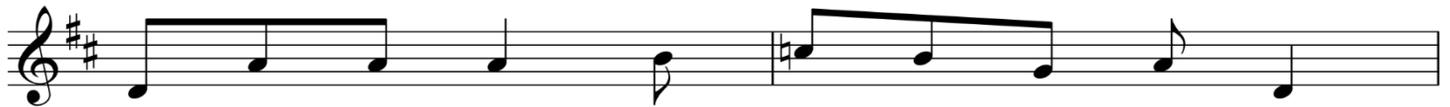
van-ish'd a - way, see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face, we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
 light-years a - way, but here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 now is the King-dom and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the blind and the lame;
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the proud and the strong;
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and make us your own;



call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Fallen in that first sin, we prove each day that apart from grace we are guilty sinners; we fail to thank God, we break God's laws, we ignore our tasks. Looking for life without God, we find death; grasping for freedom outside the law, we trap ourselves in Satan's snares; pursuing pleasure, we lose the gift of joy. In all our striving to excuse or save ourselves, We stand condemned before the God of truth. But, our world, broken and scarred still belongs to God, who holds it together and gives us hope.

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 Based on Romans 8:39

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Lamb of God, we are burdened:
We do not love you as we should.***

We forget our dependence on you and do not honor you.
Instead of glorifying you, we try to bring ourselves to glory.

***Lamb of God we are burdened:
We do not love others as we should.***

We hurry through our days and miss the opportunities to be your hands and feet.

We judge quickly and respond thoughtlessly.

***Lamb of God, we are burdened:
We do not love ourselves as we should.***

We disparage our appearances, criticize our best efforts, and misuse our bodies.

***Lamb of God, we are burdened:
We are weighed down by the bad things that are done to us.***

We hold grudges, harbor bad feelings, and believe lies told about us.
***Lamb of God, we are burdened:
We are overwhelmed by sin.***

Man of sorrows, you know our pain and suffering.
By your wounds we are healed.
Take our burdens, we pray, and free us from sin. Amen

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Jesus, Remember” (3 times)

***Jesus, remember me
when you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your Kingdom.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Based on Matthew 11: 28-30

SUMMARY OF GOD’S LAW Heidelberg Catechism

Question and answer # 28

Q. How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us?

A. We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God’s hands that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

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 "Reckless Love"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

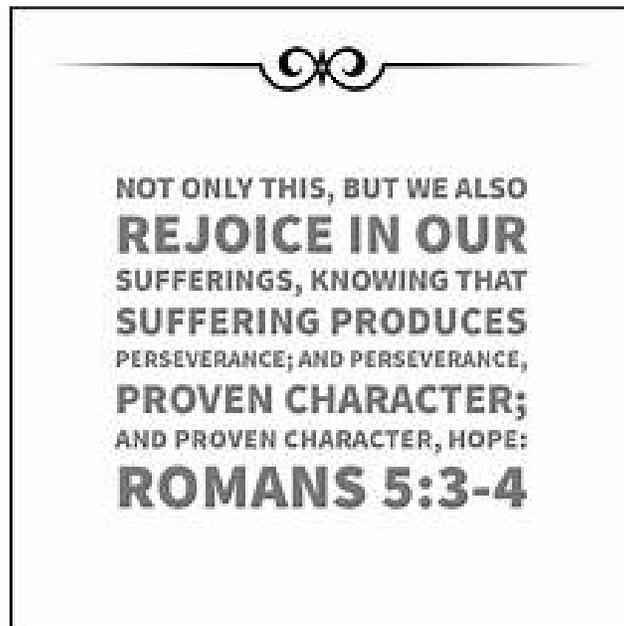
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

SERMON "Perseverance "



* SONG OF RESPONSE "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil-grim through this bar - ren land;
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but thou art might - y— hold me with thy power - ful hand:
 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through:
 death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side:

Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
 Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to

more, (want no more,) feed me till I want no more.
 shield, (strength and shield,) be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, (give to thee,) I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; tr. Peter Williams and William Williams, 1771, 1772
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

* **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
Tina Bottini

Music Director
Ben April

Elder of the Day
Vicki Lane

Soloist
Michele Braungard

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Sound Technician
Bert Huiest

Liturgist
Karen Latta

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Welcome Host
Lori Coté

Coffee Hour Host
Kyrra April

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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>



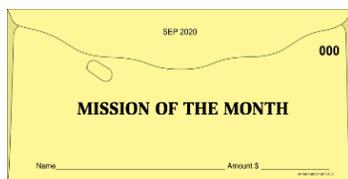
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

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

March Special Offering Envelopes –



Mission of the Month

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/mission-of-the-month-2>



**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
&
Karen Reynolds
kreynolds150@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
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