



A Celebration of Life Service

Joyce W. Karl

September 16th, 1948 — April 26, 2026

The Community Reformed Church of Colonie
Sunday, May 31st, 3 PM

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

* = Please rise in body or in spirit

For Contemplation:

Heavy by Mary Oliver, a poet Joyce liked.

That time
I thought I could not
go any closer to grief
without dying

I went closer,
and I did not die.
Surely God
had his hand in this,

as well as friends.
Still, I was bent,
and my laughter,
as the poet said,

was nowhere to be found.
Then said my friend Daniel,
(brave even among lions),
“It’s not the weight you carry

but how you carry it-
books, bricks, grief-
it’s all in the way
you embrace it, balance it, carry it

when you cannot, and would not,
put it down.”
So I went practicing.
Have you noticed?

Have you heard
the laughter
that comes, now and again,
out of my startled mouth?

How I linger
to admire, admire, admire
the things of this world
that are kind, and maybe

also troubled –
roses in the wind,
the sea geese on the steep
waves,
a love
to which there is no reply?

PRELUDE

VOTUM | Psalm 124:8

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ***Amen.***

OPENING SENTENCES | John 11: 25-26 & Romans 14: 7-8

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live. And those who live and believe in me shall never die."

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE & GREETING | II Peter 1:2

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

* HYMN "Be Still, My Soul"

Why are you downcast, O my soul? . . . Put your hope in God . . . Ps. 42:5

1. Be still, my soul! The Lord is on your side: bear pa-tient-ly the
 2. Be still, my soul! Your God will un - der - take to guide the fu - ture
 3. Be still, my soul! The hour is has-tening on when we shall be for -

cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to or - der and pro-vide;
 as he has the past; your hope, your con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap-point-ment, grief and fear are gone,

in ev - ery change he faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul! Your
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! The
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul! When

best, your heaven-ly Friend thro' thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 change and tears are past, all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

WORDS: Katharina A. von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1855, alt.
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899

FINLANDIA
 10.10.10.10.10.10.

Music © Breitkopf & Härtel

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE Tyler LaRose, Grandson

* HYMN "For All The Saints"



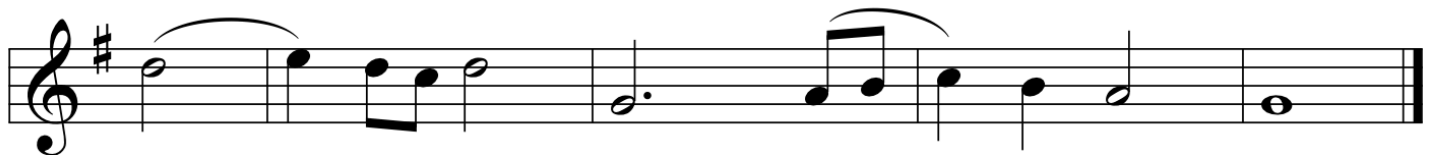
1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
all are one in thee, for all are thine.
hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



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

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

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.

GOSPEL READING John 14:1-6; 6:40

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “I Belong to You, O God”

***I belong to you, O God, I belong to you.
I belong to you, O God, I belong to you.***

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

REMEMBRANCE

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful” (sing 3 times)

***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful
In the Lord I will rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices the Lord is near,
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.***

SERMON Ephesians 2:1-10 | The Deck is Stacked With Grace | Rev. Trey Tirpak

* HYMN "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

1. Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a fore - taste of
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of rap - ture now
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav - ior am

glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
 burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a - bove
 hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,

Refrain
 born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry,
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my

sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

ASSURANCE
 9.10.9.9.Ref.

*** 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.***

*All are welcome to remain in the sanctuary to continue
celebrating Joyce's life through fellowship and refreshments.*

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Minister
Rev. Trey Tirpak

Music Director
Ben April

Sound Technician
Mike York

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Candle Lighters
Sandy Cornwell
Pam Fitzpatrick
Maggie George
Carol Grasso
Linda Murphy

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

Hospitality
CRCC Members

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I Belong to You, O God

Words & Music: Bruce Cornwell,
harmonized by Benjamin April
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In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful

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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April © 2021 Benjamin April

Joyce Karl

Joyce Wensley Karl, of Colonie, New York, passed away on April 26, 2026, after a long illness. She was born to the late William and Ruth Wensley, and was a lifetime Colonie resident.

She was employed for most of her career by the East Greenbush School District as the Director of Data Processing until her retirement. She was also a faithful member of the Community Reformed Church of Colonie, where she formed many meaningful friendships and lasting memories. She thoroughly enjoyed the years in which she taught Sunday school.

Joyce was an avid reader who often had two or three books going at the same time, always eager to get lost in a good story. She enjoyed traveling and cherished the many road trips she took with her family. Even when money was tight, she found joy in simple adventures, creating lasting memories through those times together. She had a generous heart and loved her family deeply. She also had a candid and straightforward nature. Throughout her life, she faced many health challenges with strength and determination.

Joyce was the wife of the late J. Ronald Karl (“Ronnie”). She is survived by her loving daughter, Kristie LaRose (Keith Bauer), and her cherished grandson, Tyler LaRose, who brought her immense pride and happiness. She is also survived by her sister, Judy Hulsopple; her brother, William Wensley; her brother-in-law, Jerry Karl, and his wife, Linda; along with several nieces and nephews whom she adored. The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff at Rosewood Nursing Home & Rehabilitation, who showed her so much care and kindness.