

Forgiving Father (2024) by Cheryl White

Blessing of the Backpacks

September 13, 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 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

"Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We change the memory of our past into a hope for our future."
- Rev. Dr. Lewis B Smedes, Reformed Ethicist

PRELUDE "Promises"

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

THE ELDER'S PRAYER - Melody York

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Matthew 18:21-25

Peter asks Jesus: "How many times must I forgive?" And Jesus answers:
"Not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

We come knowing how hard this is—how the past cannot be erased.
But we come believing that, in faith, we can choose a different kind of future.

So we come to learn the way of Jesus:
the way of mercy,
the way of release,
the way of a future not bound to the past.

Let us worship the God who helps us loosen the past's grip on us and opens a way to a liberated future!

* OPENING SONG "The Summons"



CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Prayer from *Feasting on the Word: Proper 19 A*

Gracious and loving God,
you lived for us—we have not lived for you.
you have forgiven us—we have not forgiven others.
you have loved us—we have not loved ourselves,
nor have we loved one another.

Pour out your grace upon us again and forgive us.
Help us to forgive.
Help us to live for you.
Help us to love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord; Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Do Not, O Lord, Withhold Your Mercy" (3 times)

Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy.
Grant us grace, grant us hope; Grant us strength, grant us peace.
Let your steadfast love keep us safe forever.

GOD'S RESPONSE

CALL TO NEW LIVING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – The Blessing of the Backpacks
Sarah Huiest

Written for the Worship for Workers Project of Fuller Seminary
by Edwin Clark from Sherman, Texas.

Commissioning of Teachers:

Educators, may God's blessing, protection, and Spirit be upon you as you guide, lead, serve, and even comfort students. You have been called by God to be ambassadors for Christ, living out God's love in your daily work. As you educate God's children of all ages.

May you be filled with mercy and wisdom.

As you encounter challenging situations and challenging students,

May you love and serve as Christ, in the strength of the Spirit. Amen.

Blessing of Students:

Students, may God surround you with blessings and protection as you carry these backpacks for this new school year. As you carry notes, books, and assignments, know that you also carry the love of Christ to see everyone around you as someone loved by God.

May you be filled with God's grace.

As you grow in wisdom and knowledge.

May you grow in compassion. Amen.

Parents, may the Holy Spirit remind you that as covenant partners, our faith community is here for you and your children. As you send them to be molded and shaped in knowledge, may you remember they are gifts from God. Know that God's blessing is with you to help them reach their potential because they are made in the image of God. As you prepare clothes, lunches, and backpacks.

May you be filled with peace.

As you challenge and encourage them to grow.

May you have perseverance and marvel at God's new work in the world. Amen.

Blessing of the Backpacks & School Supplies:

O God, we are grateful for your created goodness. As we gather rulers, pens, crayons, notebooks, and backpacks, bless these tools to help us grow in faith and service to you and to others. Fill these backpacks with wisdom as they are filled with books, lunches, hopes, dreams, as well as the worries and brokenness we bring from home. May these gifts remind our students, parents, and even us that we love them because you first loved us.

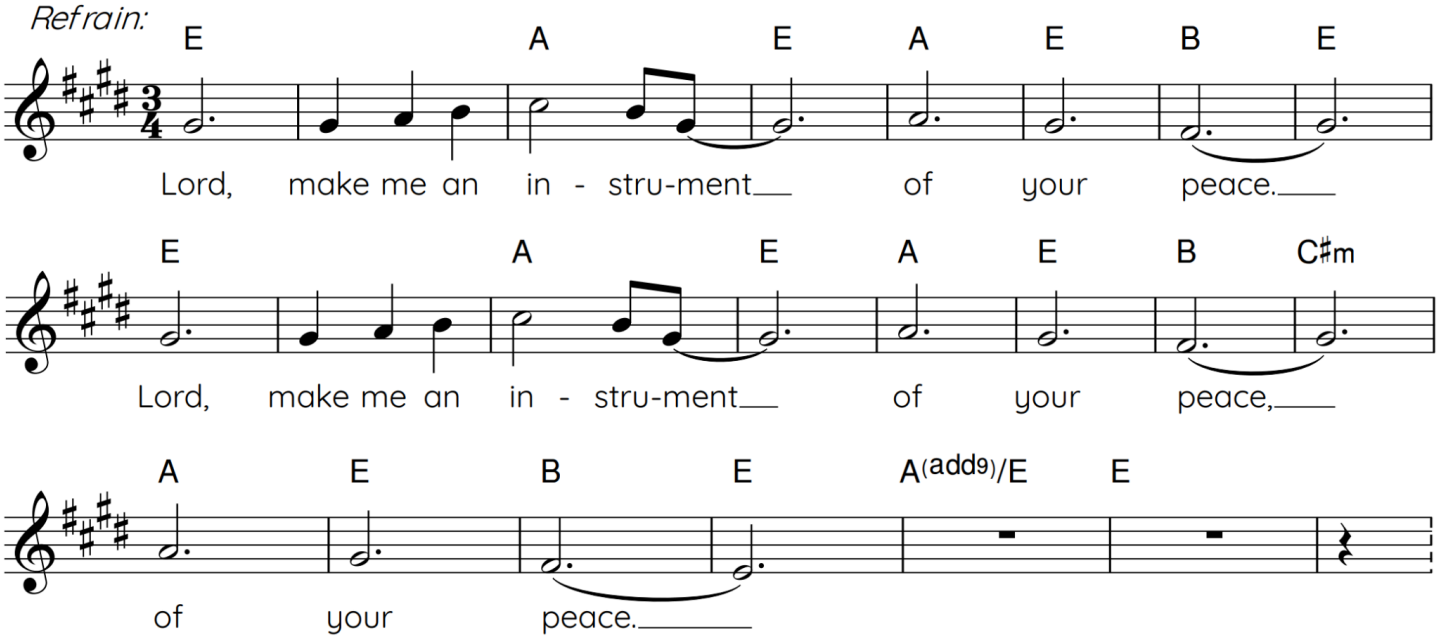
And Lord, thank you for the energy and passion of the educators here today. Fill them with your Spirit that they might be wise in their preparation, strengthened in their difficult days, energized in their moments of success, and prayerful in their daily encounters with those with whom you have entrusted them.

Bless, O God, these students and these educators that they might grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!
Please greet one another with Christ's peace.

REGATHERING SONG "Make Me an Instrument" *(repeat)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Tina Bottini & Sue Bredice

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Marv Helf

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

You're encouraged to give to the mission of The Community Reformed Church of Colonie via the offering plates or electronically through Zeffy.

*** 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 "O Come to the Altar"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, to forgive feels like something only the divine can do, and yet you tell us to do so. Through the hearing of your Word, open us to that reality today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 18:21-35 (CEB)

Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?” Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold.

Because the servant didn’t have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment.

But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

“When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’

“Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

“When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

“My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

SERMON “That’s My Son!”

*** SONG OF RESPONSE** "Let Us Be Known By Our Love"



*** 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:

Saturday Prep: **Kevin Ingalls**

Preacher: **Rev. Trey Tirpak**

Liturgist: **Vicki Lane**

Special Announcer(s):
Sue Bredice
Tina Bottini

Musician 1: **Ben April**

Elder: **Melody York**

Deacon: **Marv Helf**

Children's Message:
Sarah Huiest

Children in Worship:
Sarah Huiest

Children's Aide: **Violet Braugard**

Sound: **Mike York**

Video: **Cameron Kaercher**

Zoom: **Debra Desnoyers**

Welcome: **Kyrra April**

Coffee: **Lou Ann Connelly**

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Words & Music: Bruce Cornwell & Benjamin April © 2023 Bruce Cornwell & Benjamin April

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Words: St. Francis of Assisi (PD)
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Words & Music: Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Matthew Ntlele, Steven Furtick & Wayde Joye
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The Irish Blessing
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Offerings, MOM, Puzzle Campaign & General Giving:



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com
&
Sandy Cornwell
crccsandy@gmail.com

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday - Exodus 16:2-15
Tuesday - Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Wednesday - Jonah 3:10–4:11
Thursday - Psalm 145:1-8
Friday - Philippians 1:21-30
Saturday - Matthew 20:1-16
Sunday - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Household Prayer: Morning

Dear God, thank you for this day.
Help me hear others as I know that you always hear me.
Open my heart and help me give myself with grateful praise
to things you have set for me today.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Dear God, thank you for always being with me.
Rest now in me, God, so that I will wake in the morning
with praise and thanksgiving on my lips.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

General Announcements

The September Mission of the Month is **The Shawn Bredice Scholarship Fund.** In memory of our son Shawn, our family dedicates funds to an organization or project each year that benefits persons with Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities. Our church family has been generous to us in the past and joined us through Mission of the Month. Over the past 10 years, we have given over $25,000 in scholarships and program funding.
This year, we are returning to a project that we provided the seed money to a few years ago. We want to help SUNSHINE AND COFFEE get up and running. This unique program is run by South Colonie Life Skills teacher, Sara Norton. The middle school students are taught to run a coffee cart. They are responsible for inventory, customer service, making coffee, selling, cashiering and using the profits to help others. It is an absolutely wonderful program in teaching usable life skills.
These past years, they have been able to get sponsorship from area businesses. As they look for another sponsorship, we will support them. BARRY AND I WILL MATCH DOLLAR TO DOLLAR THE MONEY RAISED FROM OUR CHURCH'S Mission of the Month DONATIONS. You may make a donation through your **"Mission of the Month"** offering envelope, by check payable to CRCC with September Mission of the Month in the memo line.

Community Outreach Team: For September, we will be collecting fun snacks for back to school. Shelf stable milk is always in need.They will be donated to the Capital Church Food Pantry on Vly Road. Your contributions are most appreciated.

We Need Your Help with Sunday Mornings:

- **Welcome & Coffee Hour Host Sign Up:**
  https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA92AA6FAC43-64234322-welcome#/
    - **Welcome Hosts** greet everyone as they arrive for worship, and provide printed bulletins. Hosts will also provide a warm welcome for all visitors.
    - **Coffee Hour Hosts** will set-up then monitor coffee service after worship. This ministry promotes a time to catch-up with members of our church family and meet our visitors.
- **Liturgist Sign Up:**
  https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA92AA6FAC43-64234321-liturgist#/

A Prayer for September 11th

by Sandra Cornwell

Creator and Lord of All.
Today we remember.
Thousands of lives lost – millions of lives forever changed.
Our world was shattered in ways that were unthinkable.
Twenty-five years seem like only yesterday for many of us.
For others, this day is a day remembered only by our pictures and by our stories.
There has been healing but the scars and fears remain forever.
We shall ever trust in the name of the Lord.
You gave strength and unimaginable courage to the first responders.
You used the hands of those near and far to offer aid and support.
You embraced the grieving – the loses were too great for us to bear alone.
You cried with us in our despair.
We give thanks to you Lord.
You are our enduring sustainer and our everlasting refuge.
We are never alone and we will always remember.
Amen




Backpacks
are packed,
Hearts
are ready -
LET'S COVER
our
Students,
Teachers
and Parents
IN PRAYER!

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9am LAST OUTDOOR WORSHIP						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am			6pm	Worship Committee 6:30pm		9:30am 12pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am 10am		6pm	Season of Creation Service @ Lisha Kill 5:30pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am 10am Stewardship and Creation Care - 11am		6pm	6pm			10am
27	28	29	30	October 1	2	3
10am						12pm

KEY

- Indoor Worship
- Outdoor Worship
- Women's Bible Study
- NEMA
- Bible Handing Down
- Blessing of Backpacks
- Upper Room for All
- Consistory
- Advocacy and Global Missions
- Orchid Society
- Book Group