



Ash (2016) by Mike Moyers

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
7:00 PM

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

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Teach us, Lord, to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Based on Psalm 90

About Ash Wednesday:

“Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. By the fourth century the Western church had determined that the Lenten period of fasting and renewal should correspond to Christ’s forty-day fast [in the wilderness] and, by counting forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain “feast” days), arrived at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter... The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: (1) meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; (2) to renew our commitment to daily repentance in the Lenten season and in all of life; (3) and, to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin.” - *Worship Sourcebook*

PRELUDE “Wasteland”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF LENT

LENTEN INTROIT “Take, O Take Me As I Am”

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.

The musical score is written for a choir in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics clearly aligned under the notes.

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 51 & Lenten Introit

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
***The sacrifices of God are a broken a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart.***

So Lord, as we enter this wilderness season of Lent,
we come to you as we are: dust of the earth, in need of you.

Take us as we are,
and summon out all that we may be!

Let us worship Christ who only requires that we know our need for him!

* **OPENING SONG** “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

A -maz - ing_ grace,how sweet the sound, that saved a__ wretch like me.

I ___ once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now ___ I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved.
(The) Lord has_ prom-ised good to me, His word my_ hope se-cures.

How pre - cious did that grace ap-pear the_ hour I first___ be lieved.
He_ will my_ shield and por - tion be as_ long as life___ en-dures.

Refrain:

My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Sav - ior has ran - somed

me. And like a flood, His mer - cy rains un - end - ing

love, a - maz - ing grace. The

1.

2.

grace.

2

The earth shall soon dis - solve like snow, the sun for - bear to shine.

But God, who called me here be - low will

be for ev - er mine, will be for ev - er mine.

Dust and Ashes: A Service of Lessons and Song

FIRST LESSON A reading based on Genesis 2:4-7; 3:19

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Shepherd Me, O God" (3 times)

***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.***

SECOND LESSON & CALL TO CONFESSION A reading based on Job 42:5-6

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mystery and mercy, we come to you like Job, without defenses, sitting in the dust and ashes of our lives.

We confess how easily we equate our certainty with trust, our strength with faith, our plans with hope. We even become irritated with our human limitations, as if we could be anything but human. Because we act in these ways, we end up trying to control what we can't, and fruitlessly demanding answers to all that is unanswerable. Consequently, we are exhausted.

So tonight, as we are marked with ashes, remind us that this mark is not a sign of forsakenness, but a reminder of the truth of our lives and God's promises to us: that we are but dust and ashes, and your loving presence will never abandon us.

This Lent, teach us to sit honestly in your presence, so we might, as Job did, be honest about our confusion and exhaustion, and trust that you are with us, even in the midst of hardship. Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “In God Alone” (3 times)

***In God alone my soul can find rest and peace; in God my peace and joy!
Only in God my soul can find its rest; find its rest and peace.***

ASSURANCE OF PRESENCE

ANTHEM “Refiner’s Fire”

THIRD LESSON Based on Isaiah 58:5-12

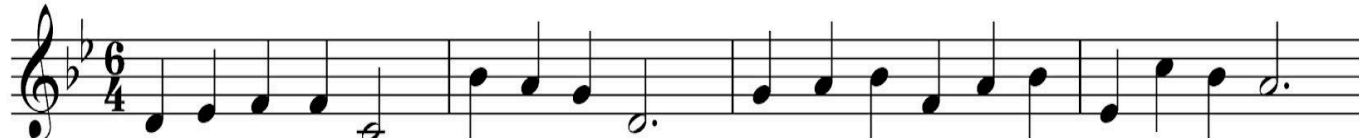
HOMILY I’ve sinned. I’m mortal. I have a purpose.

Imposition of Ashes & Hanging of The Cross

* SONG OF PREPARATION "Sign Us With Ashes"


Refrain:

G D Em Bm Am⁷ G Am⁷ D



Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci - ful God, chil-dren of dust, as to dust we re turn.

G D Gm Dm Am⁷ D G(SUS⁴) G *end after final verse*




Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.____

D G C G D G



Sure - ly, you a - lone can free us. You break the bonds of guilt and sin.
 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - fine us. You give us grace for lives made new,
 Sure - ly, you a - lone re-deem us. You fill our dust with ho - ly breath.

D G C G D(SUS⁴) D *to refrain*



Brac - ing, till we walk up-right - ly, you bol - ster our hope once a - gain.____
 forg - ing, through your fire and ra-diance, a sac - ri - fice wor - thy for you.____
 Burst - ing from the grave in glo - ry, you rise from the ash - es of death!____

MEDITATION & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please write on your paper what you'd like to give up or take on this Lent.
Go forward and nail it to the cross. Someone will help you.
Then receive ashes and return to your seat.

*** 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

Liturgist
Ana Crosbourne

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Elder of the Day
Linda Murphy

Video Technician
Alex Huiest

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Welcome Host
Lori Coté

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Sign Us With Ashes (GtG 433)
Words: Mary Louise Bringle
Music: William P. Rowan
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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 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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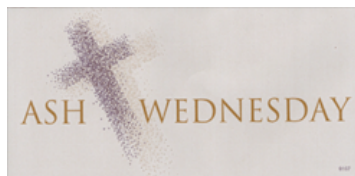
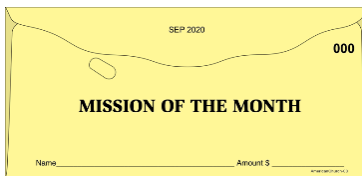
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

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701 Sand Creek Road
Colonie, NY 12205

February Special Offering Envelopes –





Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

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

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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CONSISTORY

Elders

Karl Côté, VP
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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
Facebook - facebook.com/coloniereformed
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