



(Used with permission from the Wikimedia Commons)

The most daring thing is to create stable communities
in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be
cured.!

-Kurt Vonnegut



Colonial Church

in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

10:15 a.m.
June 15, 2014

The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
 “Spiritual and Also Religious”

Please silence your mobile phone in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit.

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PIANO PRELUDE

Little Girl’s Dance

-Nielsgade

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please sign and pass pew pads and fill out Prayer Request cards you may have. You can place the Prayer Request cards in the offering plates later in the service.)

MOMENT TO LAY YOUR BURDENS DOWN

* **OPENING HYMN #397 *Thank Our God For Sisters and Brothers***

* **CALL TO WORSHIP – WORSHIPING IN COMMUNITY**

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God

People: **May our worship reflect God’s glory.**

Leader: The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

People: **May we see each other as the handiwork of God.**

Leader: Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.

People: **We commune with Christians around the world,
 with Christians throughout time.**

Leader: With Christians across geography and across time,

All: **Let us worship!**

(From the UCC’s ‘Jesus Sets the Table’)

* **SONG OF PRAISE — GLORIA #759 ADAPTED**

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen. Amen.

* **SHARING GOD’S WELCOME** (Greet everyone in the hope of peace and friendship.)

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION (Children of all ages are welcome to come forward to the chancel steps. Following the Conversation, children are welcome to remain to worship or to attend our Sunday School.)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN DRAMA

-Cynthia Smith

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Shea Zellweger

2 Peter 1:3-11 His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by ^[4] his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is short-sighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins. Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble. For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

Express your thoughts by Tweeting to #ColonialUCC.

WE RESPOND WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

One Love

-Bob Marley

Performed by Bella Hayden, and Cynthia Smith

* Doxology (#780 adapted; tune Old Hundredth)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Believing that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer, after each expression, the pastor will say:

Lord, in your mercy.

And the people may respond:

Hear our prayer.

Praying in Silence

Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* **RENEW OUR COVENANT** (Turn towards the center aisle as we bless one another with the promise of our covenant.)

We covenant with the Lord and with one another and do bind ourselves in the presence of God to walk together in Christian Love. We seek to worship God in spirit and in truth and to love our neighbors as ourselves. With God's help we will honor Colonial Church in our conduct, support its program, and extend the influence of Christ throughout the world.

* **CONGREGATIONAL SONG OF BLESSING #809** *God Be With You*

God be with you, God be with you, God be with you till we meet again.

O God be with you, God be with you, God be with you till we meet again.

* **BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

Prelude in C Major

-J.S. Bach

Liturgist: Paul Roberts

Children's Conversation: Elizabeth Bender, Erin Bender, and Hannah Parker

Greeters:

Head Ushers:

Ushers:

Any man
can
be a father
but it takes
someone special
to be a Dad.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY FROM THE COLONIAL YOUTH AND
CHILDREN!

Colonial Church Study Guide

Monday – Spiritual Community Creates Mutual Concern. Read Psalm 122. Here the Psalmist begins by expressing joy over encountering other people whose faith practices are similar to his own, causing him to enter into community with them. By the conclusion of the Psalm, he is not just celebrating their shared journey, but actively praying for all of his relatives and friends who share his faith, that they might find prosperity and peace. Because the Psalmist was united with others in practices of worship, he became concerned over their well-being, and made it his goal to preserve it. In what ways can we, as a community of faith, seek prosperity and peace for one another?

Tuesday – Spiritual Community is a Place of Support. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Qohelet first describes the benefits of two over one, and concludes the statement by contending for the benefits of three. Following this pattern, it is safe to assume that a group of four, or fifty, or several hundred, is even that much better. In any case, having these additional people is depicted as superior to attempting to “fly solo” because each one of us is bound to fail at some point. Having a community around us enables us to be supported even in the midst of a failure. Just as a many-threaded rope holds fast when a few of those threads are weakened, a spiritual community is strong enough to bear the burdens of its members who are in a place where they cannot do so on their own. How do we go about carrying the burdens of others in our spiritual community? In what ways might we do any even better job of doing so?

Wednesday – Spiritual Community Creates Unlikely Friendships. Read Luke 10:25-37. We often read this passage as a story of justice and inclusivism, and rightly so. But the parable is framed by an encounter with a man asking “who is my neighbor?” In other words, “who is a part of my community?” Jesus’ response makes it clear that community is not a matter of appearance or location- community exists wherever one person’s heart goes out to another. Our spiritual community extends far beyond the walls of Colonial, into our local neighborhood and indeed to the ends of the earth. How can we, as a local expression of spiritual community, live intentionally into the larger spiritual community?

Thursday – Being in Community Helps us Get Organized. Read Acts 2:44-47. In addition to bearing one another's burdens, the early church was intentional about setting up methods by which needs could be met as they arose. People who were able to do so gave substantial portions of their discretionary income to funds which provided for others in times of need, and the community saw to it that these funds were distributed promptly and equitably. While a person in need without a community might have to go to many different sources, and could either be turned away, or could receive aid from an unscrupulous person looking to take advantage of them, people who were a part of the early Christian communities knew that they could take their needs to the community as a whole, and from the collective offering their needs would be met. In today's world where homelessness is an epidemic even in the wealthiest nations, and loan sharks are now masquerading as bankers through things like "payday lending services," how might our spiritual communities be intentional about providing for those in need?

Friday –A Spiritual Community is a Place of Healing and Encouragement. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15. It can take a great deal of skill to walk the line between being patient and forgiving on the one hand, and admonishing and encouraging on the other. When we are isolated, there is nobody who has traveled our journey with us and is able to discern correctly where that line is. But when we live in community with one another, we share our struggles and our triumphs, so that when the time inevitably comes that we need the aid of others to carry on, our fellow community members are prepared to face the situation with us. Because of these relationships, the patience and encouragement we receive is more likely to be welcome and timely, rather than unsolicited or out of line. In what ways might we be vessels of encouragement and healing for our fellow community members?