



*(A Savior, which is Christ the Lord used with permission by Mary)*

The crucial thing is to find a truth which is truth for me,  
to find the idea for which I am willing to live and die.

-Søren Kierkegaard



**Colonial Church**

*in Prairie Village*

www.colonialucc.org  
913-362-7735

8:00 p.m.  
December 24, 2014

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ  
“A Savior Comes” Christmas Eve Worship Service**

*Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.*

\* Please rise in body or spirit.

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

*Antioch*

-Ferguson

*Divinum mysterium*

-Held

*Still Nacht*

-Miller

(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.)

**INVOCATION**

\* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #135 *Adeste Fideles (O Come, All You Faithful)***

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP – BASED ON PSALM 96**

**Leader:** O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the Earth!

**People:** **Sing to the LORD! Bless God’s name! Share the news of God’s saving work today!**

**Leader:** Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all people.

**People:** **Because the LORD is great and worthy of praise!**

**Leader:** Let heaven celebrate! Let the Earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything that is in it roar! Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate! Then all the trees of the forest too will shout out joyfully before the LORD because he is coming!

**People:** **He is coming to establish justice on the Earth! He will establish justice in the world rightly. He will establish justice among all people fairly.**

\* **SONG OF PRAISE — Refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High* (#125 in the hymnal)  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

\* **Christmas Greeting** (Greet the people around you in the hope of Christ’s birth saying: “Merry Christmas!”)

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### A SCRIPTURE OF PEACE AND THE FIRST CANDLE

**Isaiah 9:2-7** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### MUSICAL OFFERING

*Birthday of a King*

-Neidlinger

-sung by Alba Cancel, soprano and Kirk Carson, tenor

### A SCRIPTURE OF FAITH AND THE SECOND CANDLE

**Luke 2:1-7** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### HYMN #124

*Away in a Manger*

### A SCRIPTURE OF JOY AND THE THIRD CANDLE

**Luke 2:8-20** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is

born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on Earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**HYMN #126**

***Angels, from the Realms of Glory***

**A SCRIPTURE OF LOVE AND THE FOURTH CANDLE**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**HYMN #139**

***The First Nowell***

**A WORD PROCLAIMED**

Pastor Aaron Roberts

**WE RESPOND WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER**

**CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**      *O Holy Night*      -sung by Alba Cancel, soprano

\* Doxology "What Child Is This" (#148 verses 3 and 1)

***Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;  
The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's salvation  
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God's holy offering;  
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!***

\* Prayer of Dedication

**Christ comes! Our hearts are full, our joy is boundless.  
May this offering be a living message  
of peace, love, spirit, joy and hope  
to this church, to this community, to this nation and world. Amen.**

(UCC Worship Ways)

## WE DEPART TO SERVE

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**All:** Tonight we light the Christ Candle:  
 the candle of Hope made real in a Savior  
 come to Earth at Christmas.  
 In Christ, the grace of God has appeared  
 bringing the Good News of salvation for all.

### SHARING CHRIST'S LIGHT AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE

#### SING *SILENT NIGHT* AS WE PASS CHRIST'S LIGHT

(Pastor Aaron will light a candle from the Christ candle. Our ushers will then light the candle of the first worshiper in each pew. In this way we share the light that God has given to each of us.)

#### \* HYMN

#### *Silent Night, Holy Night*

*Silent night, holy night, All is calm all is bright  
 Round yon virgin mother and child,  
 Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace,  
 Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,  
 Glories stream from heaven afar,  
 Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ the Savior is born!  
 Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
 Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
 With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord,  
 at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

#### \* EXTINGUISHING THE CONGREGATION'S CANDLES AND RINGING IN CHRISTMAS DAY

#### \* BENEDICTION

#### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN

#### *Joy to the World!*

(Please hand your candle to an usher as you leave singing.)

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
 Let Earth receive her King;  
 Let every heart prepare him room,  
 And heaven and nature sing,  
 And heaven and nature sing,  
 And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the Earth! The Savior reigns:  
 Let men their songs employ;  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of his righteousness,  
 And wonders of his love,  
 And wonders of his love,  
 And wonders, wonders of his love.*

\* POSTLUDE

*Il Est Né*

-Hudson

(If you have donated a poinsettia for Christmas,  
 you are welcome to take it home following our service tonight.)

Liturgist: Bruce Wofford  
 Greeter: Michelle Turpen  
 Head Usher: Linda Moses  
 Ushers: Martha Wofford, Valerie and Kevin Cable, Linda Moses



# *The Sunday Crier*

December 24, 2014

Christmas is a sacred season. Like Mary and Joseph, we too are asked to carry God's love and deliver it into our world. Like the shepherds, we too are asked to hear "good news" even in the midst of our daily routines and darkest nights. Like the wise men, we, too, are asked to see signs and seek out God's justice that rules in ways people do not. Here at Colonial Church, we believe every person has a place and a purpose in God's world, no matter how young or how old, no matter your past or your present, no matter where you have been or where you are going. We are a community committed to loving others, serving our neighbors, and walking together in Christian love. Whether you are a member of Colonial, a family member, friend or visitor, may you experience the power and presence of God here in our sanctuary. And, may you take the light and love of Christ out into the night.

Peace and Blessings,  
*Aaron Roberts*

## **Visiting Colonial?**

If you are searching for a safe place to explore your faith while learning and discerning how God's ways interface with your own...this is the community for you. If you are interested in finding people who want to put their faith into practice...this is the community for you. If you need to experience God's grace and mercy in ordinary people and places...this is the community for you. If you would like more information about Colonial Church or the UCC, please visit: [www.colonialucc.org](http://www.colonialucc.org).

## **The Christmas Fund**

There are red offering envelopes in the pew racks for the Christmas Fund, the UCC appeal for retired clergy with limited means. In this season of giving, please remember the folks who have worked so hard for the church, and now need our help. The Outreach bulletin board in the hall has lots more information.

## **January Sermon Series: Artificial Intelligence - The Next Evolution?**

*Stephen Hawking has warned that artificial intelligence could one day "spell the end of the human race."* (12/14 BBC News). Ray Kurzweil, a lead scientist and engineer employed by Google, is working on a process to transfer human memories and thought processes from a person's brain into an artificial intelligence. Would this new being be alive? Would it be human? Would it have a soul? There are so many important questions to ask. In January, we are going to explore our humanity as people of faith in our worship and conversation. Come and bring your thoughts and questions.

## GUEST INFORMATION

**Welcome to Colonial Church in Prairie Village!** We are glad you have worshiped with us today. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to call our church office at 913-362-7735. Aaron Roberts, our senior pastor, is here Monday-Thursday of each week and his email address is [aaron@colonialucc.org](mailto:aaron@colonialucc.org).

**A fully staffed nursery** is available each Sunday morning from 8:20 to 11:30 a.m. Ask any of the ushers for directions to the nursery.

**Hearing Devices**—Hearing-assisted devices and large-print bulletins are available in the narthex. The worship service this morning can also be heard in the library for your convenience.

**Giving Cards**—Giving Cards are available in the pew racks for anyone who contributes financially through EFT or periodically. To participate in the offering, take a card and place it into the offering plate as they are passed.

**Children's Sunday School**—Children preschool through 6th grade may leave after the Children's Conversation at the 10:15 a.m. worship service to go to class.

### Youth Group

The Colonial Church Youth Group welcomes 7th through 12th grade students. Sunday gatherings are in the youth room (the Northampton Room) at 10:15 a.m. The room is open for youth to come, relax, and enjoy one another's company prior to the Sunday service. Michelle Turpen leads the group. Service and fellowship activities are planned throughout the year including volunteer opportunities, the annual Christmas pageant, and more.

**Colonial Choir**—Choir for all ages. The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

**Listen to our Weekly Messages**—You can listen to the sermon and get the bulletin and study guide on our website.

**[www.colonialucc.org](http://www.colonialucc.org)**—Learn more about Colonial and its programs at our website.

## COLONIAL STAFF

Senior Minister: Rev. Aaron Roberts ([aaron@colonialucc.org](mailto:aaron@colonialucc.org))

Ministerial Intern: Shea Zellweger ([shea.zellweger@colonialucc.org](mailto:shea.zellweger@colonialucc.org))

Youth Group Leader: Michelle Turpen ([michelle.turpen@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.turpen@gmail.com))

Music Director: Kirk Carson ([kirk.carson@yahoo.com](mailto:kirk.carson@yahoo.com))

Bell Choir Director: Hayden Huggins

Organist: Joseph Kern

Church Administrator: Pauline Anthan ([paulinea@colonialucc.org](mailto:paulinea@colonialucc.org))

Newsletter Editor: Sally Huggins ([sallyhuggins@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyhuggins@yahoo.com))

Building Maintenance: Mike McGill

Sound Engineer: Geoff Robinson