Every major conflict generates extraordinary acts of courage and compassion that reveal the errors of our assumptions and stereotypes. In this new light we can see the shared and sacred path.  

-Desmond Tutu
The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“The Cost of War” Memorial Day Sunday Worship Service
in the series The Cost of Being Priceless

Please silence your mobile phone in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit.

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

ORGAN PRELUDE Adagio - Mendelssohn

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 #439 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: Within each of our lives there is a longing for community and the Presence of God.
People: Sometimes we worry that we will walk alone, unnoticed and afraid.
Leader: This day Christ tells us that we will never be alone. An Advocate will share our journey.
People: And this journey calls for us to continue to keep to the teachings of our Lord.
Leader: May the ever present love of God be with you.
People: And may the joy of Christ surround you.
Leader: May we know the presence of the Advocate as we gather in this community of peace, continuing to share the cost of discipleship with deeds of bold mercy and courageous justice.
People: As an Easter People following a Risen Lord, may the life of Jesus live on in us and through us. Amen. (written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall)
* 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.

* 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 Proclaimed

Pastor Aaron Roberts


Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?"
He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."
Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."
But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way.
Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way.
A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him.
The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.'
What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"
Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him."
Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Express your thoughts by Tweeting to #ColonialUCC.

WE RESPOND WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

* HYMN #541

They Asked, “Who’s My Neighbor?”

CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY A mighty fortress is our God

-Dupre

* 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:

* Prayer of Dedication

May these gifts, O God, become action and intention, fulfilling Christ’s commandment to love. Amen.

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.
* HYMN #591  
This Is My Song

* 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  
A mighty fortress is our God - Pachalbel

Liturgist: Linda Moses
Children’s Conversation: Marylee Battaglia
Greeters: Sharon Yohn
Head Usher: Jim Whiles
Ushers: Catherine Bowser, Ancel Neuburger, Jim Whiles, John Yatsook
Witness of Love

As Jesus summarizes his teachings one last time, he reassures his bewildered disciples that they will not be left on their own, to fend for themselves, to rely on their own resources and their own wits. Undoubtedly this was a good thing; they couldn’t have managed any better than we could on our own! They also couldn’t just slip easily back into their lives; clearly, things would never be the same. And yet it wasn’t clear to them exactly how things were going to be. It was beyond the power of their imaginations. Again, even with Easter, and Pentecost, our imaginations, too, often fall far short of the dream of God, and Jesus’ words about love and obedience may seem like just that: words in a lovely speech long ago. Like us today, the disciples wanted to be reassured that someone greater, stronger, smarter is not only present but in charge. And they wanted to be reassured that this someone loves them. So Jesus promises to send them the Spirit, through whose power they—and we—will live lives of faithful love, signs of our love for Jesus.

HELPING PROTECT RURAL AMERICANS

We can’t do much about droughts, floods, or tornadoes—whether they are “acts of God,” as some say, or just Mother Nature. Life on the western farm belt is hard enough without human error making it worse. But still it does.

A year ago, a fertilizer plant in Texas exploded and burst into flames. Fourteen people died as a result, and the small town of West was nearly obliterated. Inevitably, questions and complaints arose in the aftermath. Why had the plant stockpiled so much explosive ammonium nitrate? Why was the plant built so close to a residential area?

In both cases, the answers were the same: because no one stopped it.

On this Rural Life Sunday, as usual, we lift up our ministries by and with families and farming communities in the United Church of Christ. Normally we celebrate the proverbial rugged individualism of those who cultivate the fields and raise the livestock that feed our nation. But sometimes those sturdy, self-sufficient folk need us as much as we need them.

Only government can establish and enforce standards to prevent disasters like West, Texas. Our UCC Justice and Witness Ministries maintain an office right across the street from the U.S. Capitol. With our support, the UCC team in Washington speaks for us through education and advocacy on a host of issues, including reducing the risk of major accidents and hazardous chemical releases in rural America.
Loving your neighbor is central to a Christian life. It’s not easy. Sometime your neighbors are blamed or stereotyped for being an enemy. But the story of Rutba is the story of Jesus – a better world is possible.

**Monday – Start Building – Read Nehemiah chapters 1-4**
- Do you see how bad everything is in the world today?
- What the church needs to do is...
- If I ruled the world, I would...
- Why doesn’t someone just do something?

Have you ever said things like this, or perhaps heard people say similar things? Do you feel like you’re waiting for someone else to do something about the state of the world? Do you see a lot of sideline sitting without people getting into the game?

Nehemiah was a Jew who worked for the Persian government as Jerusalem was being resettled after decades of exile. He was very concerned about the state of the city. It’s walls had been destroyed and the gates burned. People were vulnerable, and things needed to change. Nehemiah didn’t look for someone else to fix things. He began to organize people himself. He prayed and worked for change.

Disciples of Christ are also challenged to respond to the brokeness of the world in order to build a better one. However, just like Nehemiah, we will encounter resistance. Perseverance is the key.

- What do you think is most important to change in the world today? How is the world different than God wants it?
- Nehemiah organized people with various gifts to work for change. What gifts do you have to offer?

**Tuesday – Unjust Laws – Read Isaiah 10:1-2**
Politics are so divisive. Few people want to talk about issues in their church because of the fear of division. Yet, there must be some place in our society where people of goodwill can have a civil dialogue. Today’s scripture holds to an idea there should be Godly moral centers. It is not a sin to speak out against laws that “deprive the needy of their rights” and “rob the poor.”

- Name a trend in public policy that you think divides, excludes, and hurts the vulnerable. How would things look if we changed the system to seek the common good?
- How does viewing the public policy advocacy of the church challenge you/
Christianity is often thought of as an internal, personal faith. Way too many people think
that the central message of Jesus is “be nice.” This is a modern idea that sells in an
individualistic culture. It’s not true.
Today’s scripture is from Jesus’ first sermon when he laid out his purpose, which
is about helping poor, oppressed, and persecuted neighbors. True discipleship involves
making Jesus’ concerns yours.
- In Christian baptism, we vow to “work for justice.” How do you work for justice?
- How do you define the difference between justice and charity?
- No one should feel guilty for caring for themselves or their family, but at what
point does caring for your own hinder your ability to work for justice?

Thursday – God’s Mission – Read Isaiah 58:1-12
God has a vision for the world.
God’s power works for that world to come into being – even against human efforts.
Generally speaking, God’s ways are not our ways. How we practice religion can be
sickening to God, if it is not rooted in work for justice and peace.
It’s not easy to live as a Christian in the world. It’s hard to be church in a world
where people are so divided in opinions and loyalties. Often we pursue the successful
way over the principled way. But, if we are faithful to God’s mission, we must keep God’s
vision and mission in mind and order our lives to reflect the heart of God.
- Where do you see God’s mission being done in the world today?
- Name historical and current situations where you see God working through
people to change systems that have perpetuated evil?

On Sunday, we heard the story of the people of Rutba, who after being bombed into
oblivion, ministered to people from the nation who was killing them. As Muslims, they
demonstrated the same love that Jesus praised in this story.
- What would you have done?
- Would revenge have been in your mind and heart?
- Why do you think Dr. Farouq al-Dulaimi asked for the story to be shared? Why
did that matter so much?
Work of the People Summer Worship Brainstorming Party
Get those creative juices flowing! This summer we are going to put together some worship services in a new way using resources to make them more visual and visceral. And Pastor Aaron wants your God-given creativity to help. Meet at Panera Bread in Corinth Square on Tuesday, May 27, at 7:00 p.m. We’re going to spend an hour coming up with ideas for our summer series based on Gandhi’s Seven Deadly Social Sins. Go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C45A8A723A20-brainstorming to let Pastor Aaron know you’ll be coming. More information will be sent before we meet.

May Sermon Series: The Cost of Being Priceless
Remember the MasterCard “Priceless” ads? They preached that there were some things in life that money couldn’t buy – priceless things like friendship, love, and life. Yet, there is a danger in the idea of being priceless. Often, we treat what is beyond price with having little real worth. In May, we’re going to look for a word from God about The Cost of Being Priceless. Join us for these important topics: today – The Cost of War.

Annual Meeting on June 1
The following slate of candidates will be presented by the Nominating Committee for approval at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1, following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please plan to attend. Moderator: Martha Wofford ’15; At Large: Bernie Thomsen ’17 and Russ Townsley ’17; Property Management: Jim Cook ’16; Board of Worship: Linda Moses ’16; Board of Parish Life: Lin Vaughn ’16; Board of Christian Education: Hope Krebill ’15; Board of Stewardship: Marilyn Uppman ‘16.

Summer Sermon Ideas
This summer, Pastor Aaron will be selecting topics to explore in our sermons at Colonial Church. What ideas do you have? https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RXF7GYJ

Altar Flowers
The flowers today are given by PATTY KLUDING AND BRAD FAIRCHILD in honor of the birthdays of Kim and Kevin Fairchild.
**Highlights**

**Summer Music Talent** We are lining up special music for the summer months beginning June 1 through the end of August. If you have a special talent you would like to share with us on a Sunday morning, please send an email with a couple of dates that are good for you to Kirk Carson at kirkcarson@yahoo.com or Pauline at paulinea@colonialucc.org. Please notate the talent you will be sharing, the name of the piece and composer (if musical) and your contact information. This is actually your chance to volunteer before Kirk hunts you down with his little sign up sheet. Thank you for sharing your talents with Colonial.

**Adopt-a-Light Energy Efficiency Program** The Board of Property Management is sponsoring an energy efficiency program called “Adopt-a-Light” that will help Colonial save on energy costs and reduce our carbon footprint. For $30 your family or group can adopt a light fixture and the board will retrofit the existing T-12 fixtures with new energy efficient T-8 lamps and electronic ballasts. The church building has over 150 fluorescent light fixtures. Funds raised will be used to retrofit fixtures in the highest use areas first. The Board of Property Management already has retrofitted two fixtures on the first floor. If all 39 fluorescent fixtures on the first floor were replaced, we could reduce our energy consumption by 6900 kilowatts, saving $690 per year in energy cost and preventing 3.7 tons of greenhouse gas from entering the atmosphere. The board will be accepting Adopt-a-Light donations in the narthex on Sundays during the month of May. Checks can be made out to Colonial Church with Adopt-a-Light in the memo line. If you have questions contact Julie Inman at 913-677-0645 or inmanja@bv.com.

**Mother’s Day Diaper Drive** Many thanks to everyone who contributed money or diapers to the Mother’s Day Diaper Drive! Thanks to your generosity we have collected seven dozen diapers, and over $600 for purchase of diapers for the emergency pantries at Cross-Lines and Catholic Charities. They can buy diapers at a real discount from Harvester’s. You are making a lot of babies and Moms happy.

**Visit with Pastor Aaron Wednesdays at Starbucks** Drop by to visit with our Senior Minister, Aaron Roberts, on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Starbucks in the Prairie Village Shops across from Colonial.

**VBS 2014** Save the date for Vacation Bible School – July 15-18. Kingdom Rock will be open for 4-year-olds through 6th grade. Plan to come and bring your friends.

**Nametag Challenge!** As we grow Even Better Together, our nametags have been updated. Grab your new nametag and wear it to worship. As you leave, put it in one of the baskets by the door and you will be entered in our drawing for a $25 Target gift card.

**Colonial Women Book Discussion** The Colonial Women book club will meet on Friday, June 27, at 7:00 p.m. at Stephanie Graff’s home, 4141 W, 111th Terrace, Leawood, KS 66211. We will discuss Rachel Held Evans’ book *A Year of Biblical Womanhood: How a Liberated Woman Found Herself Sitting on Her Roof, Covering Her Head, and Calling Her Husband “Master.”* Everyone is welcome.
THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY — MAY 25
8:30 a.m.—Worship.
9:15 a.m.—That Was the Week That Was, Library.
10:15 a.m.—Worship.
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:15 a.m.—Coffee & Conversation, Heritage Room.

MONDAY, MAY 26
Memorial Day — Office Closed.

TUESDAY, MAY 27
9:30 a.m.—Book Group, Heritage Room.
7:00 p.m.—Board of Property Management, Oberlin Room.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28
9:30 a.m.—Visit with Pastor Aaron, Starbucks in Prairie Village Shops.

THURSDAY, MAY 29
10:00 a.m.—Bible Study, Pastor’s Office.

FRIDAY, MAY 30
8:30 a.m.—Quiltmakers, Social Hall.

SUNDAY — JUNE 1
8:30 a.m.—Worship.
8:45 a.m.—Justice & Witness Committee, Cambridge Room.
9:15 a.m.—That Was the Week That Was, Library.
9:15 a.m.—Board of Parish Life, Social Hall.
10:15 a.m.—Worship.
11:15 a.m.—Annual Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary.
11:15 a.m.—Lemonade on the Lawn.

Ink Cartridge Recycling  Colonial youth are recycling as part of a fundraising program. Working with Evolve Recycling, they are collecting laser and inkjet cartridges, iPods, laptops, digital cameras, GPS devices and used cell phones while raising funds for our youth. Drop your items in the box by the office. Laptops should be taken to the office. Periodically, we ship the items collected to the Global Re-Source Funding offices, at no cost to us. Evolve Recycling periodically sends us a check for those items sent in. Please help the environment and our youth by bringing your items for recycling.

Please remember the ministries of your church in your will.
**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.

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. Rehearsals resume in August.

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

**www.colonialucc.org**—Learn more about Colonial and its programs at our website.

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**Colonial Staff**

Senior Minister: Rev. Aaron Roberts (aaron@colonialucc.org)
Ministerial Intern: Shea Zellweger (shea.zellweger@colonialucc.org)
Youth Group Leader: Michelle Turpen (michelle.turpen@gmail.com)
Music Director: Kirk Carson (kirk.carson@yahoo.com)
Bell Choir Director: Hayden Huggins
Organists: Ann Marie Rigler, Joseph Kern
Church Administrator: Pauline Anthan (paulinea@colonialucc.org)
Newsletter Editor: Sally Huggins (sallyhuggins@yahoo.com)
Building Maintenance: Arthur Locke
Sound Engineer: Geoff Robinson