The voice of passion is better than the voice of reason. The passionless cannot change history.

-Czesław Miłosz, Nobel Laureate
The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ  
“Everything in Prayer with Thanksgiving” Sunday Worship Service

Please silence your mobile phone in preparation for worship

* Please rise in body or spirit

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

GATHERING MUSIC

Ar hyd y nos

-STOLDT

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 #7  All People That on Earth Do Dwell

CALL TO WORSHIP – BASED ON PSALM 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the Earth!

People: We worship the LORD with gladness. We come into God’s holy place with singing!

Leader: Know that the LORD is God.

People: It is God that made us, and we belong to God.

Leader: We are God’s people, and the sheep of God’s pasture.

People: Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and courts with praise. Give thanks to God, bless God’s holy name.

Leader: For the LORD is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever...

People: God’s faithfulness to all generations.

* 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

A WORD IN MUSIC

For the Beauty of the Earth

- John Rutter

A WORD PROCLAIMED

A Task
In fear and trembling, I think I would fulfill my life
Only if I brought myself to make a public confession
Revealing a sham, my own and of my epoch:
We were permitted to shriek in the tongue of dwarfs and demons
But pure and generous words were forbidden
Under so stiff a penalty that whoever dared to pronounce one
Considered himself as a lost man.

- by Czesław Miłosz

Philippians 4:4-9
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Express your thoughts via social media at #ColonialUCC.
WE RESPOND WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

* HYMN #506  What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY  Rejoice Now, Beloved Christians

* 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

God of abundance,
we give these offerings of material goods
as our commitment to give back to you
and to care for your people.
Let our giving remind us to see Jesus all around us.
Use our offerings of money and of our lives
for ministry to your purposes. Amen.  

(UCC Worship Ways)

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” is the traditional way this prayer begins. You are invited to use whatever name for God you find most meaningful (Father, Mother, Creator, God, etc.). Together our names for God create a beautiful chorus.)

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

* MEAL BLESSING HYMN #419  *Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)*

* 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  *Lobe den Herren*  -Micheelsen

Liturgist: Catherine Bowser
Children’s Conversation: Darren Carpenter
Greeter: Ancel Neuburger
Head Usher: Howard Lee
Ushers: Bill Yohn, Bob Starcke, Bill Sanderson, Howard Lee
Some years ago, when church folks talked about stewardship the conversation typically involved efficient use of the church’s financial resources. Stewardship has come a long way.

Look at what Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago is accomplishing through its Raise the Roof campaign—a project launched in the fall of 2013 with a goal of replacing the church’s aging roof with a “green” one. Green roofs are roof surfaces covered with vegetation. They can be used for growing rooftop gardens, can decrease the amount of energy used by the building, and can have a longer life than traditional roofs.

Raise the Roof is a win-win situation with the environmentally friendly roof providing insulation, increasing the church’s green space and absorbing and cleaning rainwater. Trinity has already raised $4.1 million of a $5 million fundraising goal from over 1,000 Trinity members and households.

The Rev. Otis Moss III, pastor of Trinity UCC, is leading his congregation toward a sustainable, ecofriendly future. “Taking advantage of the latest in green technologies as we reinvigorate our aging infrastructure is a wonderful way to match what we preach with what we practice,” said the Rev. Mark A. Smith, Trinity’s minister of stewardship.

Rosalyn Priester, member of both Trinity UCC’s Green Committee and the UCC’s Environmental Ministries Steering Committee, said that the UCC’s denominational Mission 4/1 Earth campaign last spring really caught on at this urban church. The obvious excitement about going green is evident in Trinity’s 2014 theme: “Love God, Live Green, Liberate All.”

Green is good!
The readings for this week lead up to our Thursday morning Bible Study discussion at 10:00am in Pastor Aaron’s Office.

This week we’re going through the book of First Samuel, which is about the transition of Israel as a confederation of tribes to a monarchy. Saul’s kingship was rejected by God, and we’re going to look at how his life comes apart.

Monday - Read 1 Samuel 18-20 – Saul, David, and Jonathan
An “evil spirit from the LORD” came into Saul.
It’s a strange phrase used to describe Saul’s descent from jealousy to madness and murder. Saul changes. Evil, fueled by jealousy, takes root in him. He goes on to betray David, his son’s best friend, and a man he had loved.

- How do you see this...if there is one God of all things, does evil come from God?
- Saul was wounded by God’s rejection through Samuel, but his end as a good and faithful person begins with his jealousy of David. Have you ever seen a person get lost down a path like this?
- When is a time when your emotions led you down a dark path? What happened?

Tuesday – Read 1 Samuel 21-24 – David Spares Saul
Saul recognizes that David is going to be the future king. The process of transferring royal power to David is underway. The human power to govern always comes with the reality of violence. Kings and presidents have armies.
David could have seized the opportunity to kill Saul, but he doesn’t. To be in power does not necessitate the use of violence. Acting with compassion does not mean ignoring the realities of violence and evil. It is only by compassion that the cycle of violence can ever truly be broken.

- There is an ancient saying, “If you want peace, prepare for war.” Indeed the threat of violence can suppress vengeance. However, until the deeper fear, anger, and hate are addressed, a true path to peace cannot be found. Think about the world. Where and when have you seen this?
- Jesus was referred to as “the son of David.” This is more than just an ancestry. It is an affirmation of Jesus’ refusal to build God’s Kingdom with violence. There is always another choice.
Wednesday – Read 1 Samuel 25-27 – Abigail

“Beloved, never avenge youselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the LORD.” –Romans 12:19

Because of Abigail, David is prevented from heading down the path Saul had trod. In chapter 26 verses 26 and 33, both David and Abigail recognize how important it was that David not murder Nabal. It would have doomed his kingship. Again, this is not allowing violence to be the response of the powerful.

- Abigail demonstrates Jesus’ Way of looking for new possibilities. “If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink.” (Romans 12:20) How could this Way help us in places like Iraq, Ferguson, and the Ukraine?

Thursday – Thanksgiving ! – Celebrate and Remember

Saturday – Read 1 Samuel 28-31 – The End of Saul

Samuel had loved Saul. Samuel had seen the good in him. But, power and jealousy corrupted Saul. Saul’s suicide did not give the Israelites a measure of victory in defeat as Samon had. It simply prevented further humiliation of the nation by having the king captured and executed.

- As we begin reading, 2 Samuel next week, pay attention to how David speaks about Saul and Jonathan. Even if you have been at odds or political enemies, respect for the office (king, president, pastor, teacher, and so forth) is due.
Thanksgiving Dinner Today
Join your Colonial family for Thanksgiving dinner today at 11:15 a.m. in the Social Hall. The Board of Parish Life will provide the traditional elements of the meal: delicious turkey, dressing, potatoes, rolls and beverages. We need you to bring a special dish that will add variety and spark to the meal. Last names starting with A-G desserts, H-P side dishes, and Q-Z salads. There will be a free will offering to cover additional expenses.

Cross-Lines Christmas Store
We have a good start on funding the household supplies that we give to the 525 families going through the store, with almost $700 coming in last Sunday. Our goal is $2,600, so we still need your contribution. Write a check to the church with Christmas Store in the memo line, or place cash in an envelope marked Christmas Store. You can put them in the offering plate. Also, we need to fill out about 200 Health Kits for the store. The Sunday School classes will assemble them next Sunday. And we need your help to pay for the supplies. So, perhaps you could give a little more this year. Judy LeVeau, ace shopper, got the bath towels (each, a $10 value) for $2.88 apiece! All we need now is to pay for them. Christmas is a wonderful time to give more and spend less. Instead of buying something for that relative who has everything, give the money to help someone who pretty much needs everything. It will deepen the meaning of Christmas for you. And thank you!!

Advent Festival and Chili-Soup Cookoff and Dinner
The annual Advent Craft Festival and Chili-Soup Cookoff Dinner will be Sunday, Dec. 7. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. we will have many different crafts for children and adults. After crafts, we will meet in the Social Hall for a Chili-Soup Cook-off Dinner. Here’s your chance to show us what you’ve got...The BEST chili or soup recipe you can find -- meatiest? vegetarian delight? hot as a firecracker? Send in the Fire Department? OR enter your homemade soup that everyone wants the recipe for. We promise recognition, suspense, prizes and bragging rights for the winners! The Board of Parish Life will provide drinks, bread, and desserts.

Altar Flowers
Thanks to Missy Flachsbarth and Hayden Huggins of the Flower Committee for the beautiful Thanksgiving arrangement on the altar.
Highlights

Advent Booklet. Advent is the season of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of the Christ child. This year the Advent devotion booklet available to members was written by members of the congregation. Several people have written meditations based on scripture that have been compiled by Charlotte and Kirby Drayer in a booklet of daily devotions for Advent. The cover art was created by our own Kim Fairchild. Be sure to pick yours up in the narthex.

Jim Cosgrove Partners with Artists Helping the Homeless for “Bright Light Friday” A post-Thanksgiving tradition. Skip the craziness of Black Friday shopping and make it a “Bright Light Friday.” Bring your family and friends to a FREE Jim “Mr. Stinky Feet” Cosgrove concert on Friday, November 28, at 10:30 a.m. at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City, MO, Library (4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO). On the day of the concert, we’ll be collecting winter clothing for Artists Helping the Homeless. They need hats, gloves, socks, scarves, coats, boots, long underwear, etc. All sizes will be accepted. (Adult large and XL items are needed the most.)

2015 Altar Flowers. Please sign up to purchase the altar flowers for your chosen date in 2015. The calendar is in the narthex. Your cost is $50 and you may take the flowers following the 10:15 a.m. service or designate them for the Care Committee to take to homebound or hospitalized members. You can also sign up online at http://tinyurl.com/2015flowers.

Colonial Women Activities

■ Breakfast and Coffee at Big Biscuit. Monday, December 1, at 9:30 a.m. at Big Biscuit. For more information, call Martha Wofford at 913-631-0181.

■ Alden Guild. Thursday, December 4, 6:00 p.m., Nordstrom’s at Oak Park Mall.

■ Book Discussion Group. Friday, December 5, 7:00 p.m., Stacey Algren’s home. The book is Still Alice by Lisa Genova.

■ Blue Moose Tuesday – Not at Blue Moose. Tuesday, December 9, 6:00 p.m. Lin Vaughn’s home (3108 W. 73rd St., Prairie Village). Bring an appetizer or beverage to share.

■ Mayflower Guild Christmas Luncheon. Join us on Wednesday, December 10, at the Forum (3501 W 95th St.). Doris Kurth will host. Be sure to stick around for a fireside chit-chat afterwards. The cost is $7. Parking is limited so plan to carpool and arrive by 11:45 a.m. We must have firm reservations by December 4. Contact Sharon Yohn (913 339-9862 - hohum2@comcast.net) or Marti Lee (913-492-0749 - hmlee13@att.net). Anyone who has committed to coming, reconfirm with Sharon ASAP.

Centering Prayer for Advent. Centering prayer is a Christian form of meditation. It’s done in silence and it’s very good for slowing down the gears of your mind, which makes it an ideal practice for Advent. Anyone who would like to practice centering prayer can join me from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Sundays in the Savoy Room. We’ll talk briefly about centering prayer and how it’s done, and then we’ll pray together. If you’ve never done centering prayer or meditation, no worries—we’ll learn by doing. Join us Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14, and 21.
THE WEEK AHEAD
TODAY — NOVEMBER 23
8:30 a.m.—Worship.
9:00 a.m.—Bell Choir, Pilgrim Room.
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.—Thanksgiving Feast, Social Hall.
4:30 p.m.—Meal for Artists Helping the Homeless, Plaza.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
9:30 a.m.—Book Group, Heritage Room.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26-28
Office Closed — Thanksgiving Holiday.

Colonial Crew Game Night on December 13. Colonial Crew (formerly Culture Club) will celebrate 12-13-14 with game night. It’s a potluck so bring whatever you want and we’ll snack and play. And bring a game to play. At the home of Stephanie and Jason Graff (4141 W 111 Ter, Leawood KS 66221). Are you right for Colonial Crew? Do you have school age children? Do you consider yourself somewhere between “Colonial Youth” and “Colonial Friends”? If the answer was yes to either of those—you fit right in! The Colonial Youth will babysit at the Graff’s home. Kids downstairs and the grown-ups will be upstairs. So RSVP with the number of kids you’ll have! And you can make a little babysitting donation to the youth directly with this link: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/colonial-ucc-parents-night-out-tickets-14346046133

New Member Class. There will be a membership class on January 11, 18 and 25 for those interested in joining Colonial. If you would like to be a part of this class, please let us know by contacting Pauline in the church office.

Earn Money While Shopping If you shop on Amazon, help Colonial Church by going to http://tinyurl.com/shoppingfundraiser. Then click on the “begin shopping” link and you will be re-directed to Amazon. Colonial will earn 3% of every dollar you spend on Amazon by purchasing through this link.

Stewardship Thought “We need to help younger people recognize their own capacity to do good, and help them discover the rewards of generosity.” — Bill Clinton

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.

**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.

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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
Organist: Joseph Kern
Church Administrator: Pauline Anthan (paulinea@colonialucc.org)
Newsletter Editor: Sally Huggins (sallyhuggins@yahoo.com)
Building Maintenance: Mike McGill
Sound Engineer: Geoff Robinson