



(*Earth Day 4* used with permission by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.)

This planet is not terra firma. It is a delicate flower and it must be cared for. It's lonely. It's small. It's isolated, and there is no resupply. And we are mistreating it. -Scott Carpenter, Mercury 7 Astronaut



Colonial Church

in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

April 24, 2016
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
 “This Is My Song” Confirmation Sunday Worship Service
 in the series *Hymn Theology***

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

We Gather as God’s People

Gathering Music

Finlandia

-Kerr

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.)

A Moment to Lay Your Burdens Down

* **Opening Hymn #28** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

* **Call to Worship - Quotes in Praise of the God of Creation**

Leader: The world is charged with the grandeur of God. (*G.M. Hopkins*)

People: Praise God!

Leader: The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects.
 (*Thomas Berry*)

People: Praise God from the heavens!

Leader: All creation is a song of praise to God. (*Hildegard of Bingen*)

People: Praise God from the earth.

Leader: The Earth is a sparkling blue and white jewel laced with slowly swirling veils of white, like a pearl in a thick sea of black mystery.
 (*Edgard Mitchell*)

People: Praise God from the deepest sea.

Leader: Great Spirit, give me strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is. (*Black Elk*)

People: Praise God, men and women, young and old.

Leader: Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. (*Rachel Carson*)

People: Praise God!

* **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 participate in 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 a Word from God

A Word in Music

Rise Up, O Men of God

-arr. York

A Word Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

Ancient Wisdom for Today

Mark 2:22 No one pours new wine into old leather wineskins; otherwise, the wine would burst the wineskins and the wine would be lost and the wineskins destroyed. But new wine is for new wineskins.

An Ancient Question for a New Time

Mark 8:27-29 [Jesus] asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Mark 15:37-39 Jesus let out a loud cry and died.

The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "This man was certainly God's Son."

Express your thoughts via social media at #ColonialUCC.

A Word Among Us - Confirmation of Baptism

(The sacrament of baptism begins a Christian journey with Christ's church. When people are baptized as infants or small children they may later decide to make the vows of baptism their own. They "confirm" their baptism into Christ's church. Colonial Church requires neither Confirmation nor Baptism as a requirement of membership though. We truly believe that no matter who you are or where you are at on your life's journey, you are welcome. All of the young people today are at various points on their journey. They are blessings to our community. We thank God for them!)

Sacrament of Baptism of Adam Parker

Rite of Confirmation of Baptism

*** Confirmation Hymn #351 *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry***

New Member Reception

Community Words of Welcome

We welcome you to the common life of this church family. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and work of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and together be witnesses of our risen Savior.

We Respond with Thanksgiving and Prayer

Call to Offering and Offertory *On This Day the Son of God Triumphant* -Dupre
(Our weekly offering includes food collected to help fill local pantries.)

* 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
**Gracious God, you offer us abundant life.
We offer you thanks and praise.
You sow in us the gift of giving.
We dedicate these first fruits to you.
Your goodness abounds, your provision is sure.
To you we offer these gifts of gratitude;
to you we rededicate our loves and lives. 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" 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.). These 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

* 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**

Finlandia

-Kern

Confirmation Class: Erin Bender, Nicholas Herbst, Lucia Marquez, Adam Parker

Liturgist:

Linda Moses

Videographer:

Geoff Robinson

Worship Graphics Operator:

Hayden Huggins

Children's Conversation:

Anne Dwyer

Greeters:

Joe and Linda Cunningham

Head Usher:

Chester Bender

Ushers:

Stacy Huggins, Howard Lee, Bill Sanderson,
Chester Bender

Colonial Church Bible Study Guide

Our 10:00am Thursday morning Bible Study is covering the Apocrypha. If you would like to take part in the study, simply come on Thursdays or signup for the group via InFellowship from the church website.

Keep the simple point in mind: our primary purpose is not simply learning information about the Bible. It is hearing God speak.

Lesson 2 - Tobit

Homework - Read Tobit 1-14

The Apocrypha is not commonly read or studied. In many Bibles it is not included. During this second week of the study, we will read the story of Tobit and Sarah. It is a story of being in a place ready to give up because there seems like no way forward. If you would like a copy of the supporting reading, please contact Pastor Aaron to have a copy sent to you.

In Tobit, you will gain insights into Jewish ethics, beliefs about divine intervention, and hopes for the nation's future during the years 250-100 B.C.

April 24, 2016 United Church of Christ Mission Moment
Revelation 21: 1-6

Imagine

The book of Revelation was born on the Island of Patmos, a place where the Roman world dumped all those people it considered vagrant and disturbers of the peace and used them as slaves in the Island's quarry. It could not have been a pleasant life there and yet out of its misery comes these words of hope and miraculous possibility. Some scholars of religion have suggested that the words of this book were spoken out loud, recited as litanies in worship services intended to bring visions of hope alive so the island inhabitants might feel an embodied realized hope.

Embodied hope would be a hope that was real and present and touchable. Homelessness is a great destroyer of hope in our communities. In Green Bay, Wisconsin, the Ecumenical Partnership for Housings working to create that kind of embodied hope for homeless families. One of the 18 partner churches is Union Congregational United Church of Christ. Each partner church is responsible for one apartment unit. Church members volunteer their time and skills to clean, maintain, and also to welcome new families who arrive to a sparkling home and a refrigerator full of groceries.

In today's scripture from Revelation, God is no longer remote but visible among the people, wiping their eyes, and lifting pain and sadness. "See," says God, "I am making all things new;" and later in the passage, "To the thirsty I will give water as a gift" Water in the desert, or on a remote rocky island, is embodied hope indeed. How more embodied a hope is there than a freshly painted, clean and welcoming home to a single parent and children who have been sleeping in shelters and had no place of their own?

In making such partnerships, churches can offer that visible, tangible message that God is love, born in our deeds encouraged by grand visions of what a world graced by God would look like. We are not separated from God. God is with us, embodied and tangible in a warm bed and a well-stocked larder.



The Sunday Crier

April 24, 2016

Be Inspired to Live Like A Child!

Join Colonial Women for a salad bar luncheon on Wednesday, May 4, at 12:00 p.m. along with guest speaker, Jim “Mr. Stinky Feet” Cosgrove. After nearly 20 years of working with children, our own Jim Cosgrove has discovered they have much to teach adults about living a more joy-filled life. Everyone is welcome! Call the church office or sign up in the narthex today. Please bring something for the salad bar: cheese, dressing, croutons, diced eggs, onions, beets, sunflower seeds, tomatoes, celery, etc.

Colonial Friends to Tour National World War 1 Museum

Wednesday, April 27 (note date change). Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and leave for the museum at 10:15 a.m. Tour will begin at 11:00 a.m. or earlier if possible. Cost is \$10 per person, money collected in advance as the museum requires. Lunch at Jack Stack Barbecue north of Union Station after the tour. Please email Joe Cunningham (runningrev2@aol.com) or call 913-341-6303 to register.

Best of Colonial Choir Spring Concert

Save the date for a concert of the best of our Colonial Choir. Sunday, May 15, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Light dinner to follow. Child care will be available.

Sermon Series: Hymn Theology

The message and theology behind the hymns Christians sing are powerful. Hymns will speak even in the middle of crisis. A tune may allow God to speak in moments when you need it most. In April, the sermon series “Hymn Theology” will turn to some great hymns and the powerful message behind them.

Today – This Is My Song (Earth Day weekend)

*Altar
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are provided by DORIS KURTH in loving memory of Robert H. Kurth, M.D.

HIGHLIGHTS

Cross-Lines and Plants – A Winning Combination. Spring is just around the corner and it's time to plant your garden. Here's an excellent source for hardy annuals, perennials, tomatoes, herbs, hanging baskets and patio planters at competitive prices. The Friends of Cross-Lines annual plant sale is Thursday, April 28, and Friday, April 29, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 30, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 6837 Nieman. Cross-Lines Community Outreach is a not-for-profit organization and your order is 50% tax deductible. For more information, contact Lee Rowe at roweed33@gmail.com or at 913-642-1371.

Mother Ocean – Heartland Connections. Many Colonial members will remember Elaine Giessel as the Garbage Queen of Johnson County because she has spoken here before on recycling and waste water management. The Justice and Witness Committee has invited her back to explore how climate change affecting the oceans really does affect us here in Kansas. She will present "Mother Ocean – Heartland Connections" on May 1, 9:15, in the Heritage Room. Elaine is a marine ecologist by training and has taught biology, geology, microbiology and environmental science at community colleges in both Kansas and Texas. She is a seasonal Park Naturalist at Ernie Miller Park in Olathe. She completed the Kansas Master Naturalist program Spring 2014. A member of the Sierra Club since 1981, she is currently Chair of the local Kanza Group and Conservation Chair of the Kansas Chapter. Nationally, she is working on marine and water issues and environmental justice.

Feed the Hungry Donations. This week and every week, don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry on Sunday. A hungry family will thank you!

Colonial Women Activities

- **Colonial Women Luncheon.** Wednesday, May 4, Social Hall. Jim Cosgrove is the speaker.
- **Alden Guild.** Thursday, May 5, 6:00 p.m. Jose Pepper's, 6870 Johnson Dr.
- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, May 10, 5:30 p.m. Blue Moose in Prairie Village.
- **Book Group.** Friday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Stacey Algren (3206 W. 82nd Terrace, Leawood, KS 66206). All are welcome to join the group which will be discussing *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. History, sports, human interest, weather, suspense, design physics, oppression and inspiration, this book has it all. It is a compelling true story about an American rowing team unexpectedly winning the gold medal at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin much to the disgrace of Adolph Hitler's feared racers.

Join Artists Helping the Homeless and Colonial Church on the 4th Sunday of every month as we seek to serve those in need. Help is needed for shopping, cooking, baking, and serving the meal. Meals will be served by the JC Nichols Fountain on the Plaza, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/AHH-Colonial>.

Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate. The Justice and Witness Committee will offer a selection of Fair Trade chocolate bars and ground coffee for purchase the second Sunday of each month following the 10:15 service.

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY — APRIL 24

8:30 a.m.—WORSHIP.

9:00 a.m.—BELL CHOIR, Pilgrim Room.

9:15 a.m.—THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS, Library.

9:30 a.m.—CONFIRMATION BREAKFAST, Social Hall.

10:15 a.m.—WORSHIP.

10:30 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL.

11:15 a.m.—COFFEE & CONVERSATION, Heritage Room.

11:15 a.m.—BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, Oberlin Room.

MONDAY, APRIL 25

9:30 a.m.—COLONIAL WOMEN BOARD, Oberlin Room.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

9:30 a.m.—BOOK GROUP, Heritage Room.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

9:30 a.m.—COFFEE WITH PASTOR AARON, Einstein Brothers, Prairie Village Shops.

10:00 a.m.—COLONIAL FRIENDS, National World War I Museum.

7:00 p.m.—COLONIAL CHOIR, Choir Room.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

9:00 a.m.—CARE COMMITTEE, Heritage Room.

10:00 a.m.—BIBLE STUDY, Pastor's Office.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

8:30 a.m.—QUILTMAKERS, Social Hall.

OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, MAY 1

8:30 a.m.—WORSHIP.

9:00 a.m.—BELL CHOIR, Pilgrim Room.

9:15 a.m.—THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS, Library.

9:15 a.m.—MOTHER OCEAN – HEARTLAND CONNECTION, Heritage Room.

10:15 a.m.—WORSHIP.

10:30 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL.

11:15 a.m.—COFFEE & CONVERSATION, Heritage Room.

Stewardship Thought. “Remember this—you can’t serve God and money, but you can serve God with money.” — Selwyn Hughes, English pastor and author

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 Savoy 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—Learn more about Colonial and its programs.

Social Media— Stay up to date with what's happening at Colonial through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/colonialucc>; Instagram: [colonial_ucc](#); Twitter: [#ColonialUCC](#); Follow Pastor Aaron: [@PastorARoberts](#)

COLONIAL STAFF

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

Youth Group Leader: Michelle Turpen (michelle.turpen@colonialucc.org)

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

Bell Choir Director: Hayden Huggins

Organist: Dr. Joseph Kern

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

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

Building Maintenance: Mike McGill

Sunday School Superintendent: Camille Breckenridge (camille.breckenridge@colonialucc.org)