



GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

SABBATH WEEKEND

DECEMBER 14-18 2016

Guns and violence are in every nook and cranny of America. Many children can get a gun quicker than they can get a book out of the library. That puts us all at risk.

-Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund



Colonial Church
in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

December 11, 2016
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
 “Remembering Newtown” Sunday Worship Service
 in the series *A Season of Peace***

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

-Klotz

Welcome and Call to Worship

(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.)

Leader: God is good...

People: all the time!

Leader: All the time...

People: God is good!

* **Opening Hymn #122** *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

* **Advent Lighting the Candle of Joy**

-UCC Worship Ways

Leader: There are some blessings that are only revealed to us when the day is darkest.

People: There are some mercies that only shine when the shadows are deepest.

Leader: There are some graces that are only glimpsed when the night is the longest.

People: O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

Leader: In Advent, we remember the darkest days...

People: ...and await the brilliant light of hope.

Leader: In Advent, we remember the thirsty days...

People: ...and await the quenching light of peace.

Leader: In Advent, we remember the silent days...

People: ...and await the singing light of joy.

Leader: Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...who will come and save you."

People: Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

*** Advent Song of Praise**

Shine a candle in the darkness, breathe new hope into our lives.

Wind your blessed peace around us till the day when Christ arrives.

Shine a candle in the darkness.

Wind your blessed peace around us.

Shine a candle in the darkness, breathe new hope into our lives.

Wind your blessed peace around us till the day when Christ arrives.

*** 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, Shepherd and Follow

-arr. Hairston

A Word Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

God's Salvation Again Proclaimed in the Words of Isaiah

Luke 3:1-6 In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius - when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler

over Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas - God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet, A voice crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth. All humanity will see God's salvation."

What John the Baptist Expected

Luke 3:7-17 Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect."

Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?"

He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

What Do We Have the Right to Expect?

Matthew 11:2-3 Now when John heard in prison about the things Jesus was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus Responds with a List of Human Lives Made Better

Matthew 11:4-6 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn #581

Lead Us from Death to Life

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Mission Moment for The Christmas Fund Special Offering -Leonore Rowe
(Our weekly offering includes food collected in the red wagon to help fill local pantries.)

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

***So bring him incense gold and myrrh; Come humbly to revere him;
The King of kings salvation brings; Let faithful hearts draw near him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds seek and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him praise, the babe, the son of Mary!***

* Blessing the Offering

God of the lowly and blessed, we thank you for the many ways we have been blessed by those who, like Mary, said yes to your invitation to participate in bringing your love to birth in our world. We are especially grateful for those servants who have given their gifts in our faith communities as pastors and teachers. We dedicate these offerings in celebration of their service. Bless these offerings and us, that they and we might be used to turn the world upside down with your love. May each of us rejoice in our opportunities to play our role your realm. Amen.

A 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 #131** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*
- * **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** *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* -Walcha

Liturgist:	Joan Gilson
Advent Candlelighters:	The Walsh Family
Videographer:	Geoff Robinson
Worship Graphics Operator:	Hayden Ferguson
Children's Conversation:	Marylee Battaglia
Hospitality Desk:	Bekki Walsh
Head Usher:	Marion Fleming
Ushers:	Marylee Battaglia, Mariam Fleming, Mary Pelton, Bill Yohn

Gun Violence Statistics

(Grandparents Against Gun Violence - <http://www.moksgagv.org/>)

- Gun violence costs the United States \$229 billion, or \$700 per American per year.
- There are about 90 gun deaths per day in the U.S. (nearly 35,000 annually). 33% are homicides; 63% are suicides; and 4% are unintentional, many involving children with no intent to harm.
- Of these 90 gun deaths per day, 7 are children and teens are killed each day by guns and once a week a toddler accidentally shoots someone
- Compared to other countries, American children are 12 times more likely to be killed by a gun.
- Locally, statistics from 2014 for Kansas and Missouri combined are 1,267 deaths by firearms.
- There have been 170 school shootings since Sandy Hook (data through October, 2015)
- In 2015 there were 109 gun deaths in Kansas City

**Influential gun rights advocates have pressured political leaders to shut down gun research. The result: the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other scientific agencies lost funding for gun-related research.*

WORDS MATTER

GUN THESAURUS 2016



EDUCATE ADVOCATE PARTICIPATE

Gun Term —Alternative

- A** ammunition—facts, evidence
 armed with the facts—well-prepared
 aim for—hope to achieve
 ask point blank—ask directly
- B** bite the bullet—just do it
 bullet-points—specifics, key points
 bullet-proof—invincible
- C** caught in the crossfire—caught in the middle
 cheap shot—unfair criticism
- D** dodged a bullet—avoided trouble
 don't shoot the messenger—not responsible
- E** even shot—50/50 chance
- F** faster than a speeding bullet—turbo speed
 "Fire Away!"—"Get Started!"
 firing blanks—not succeeding
 fire back—responding quickly
- G** going great guns—succeeding beyond expectations
 gun it—floor it
 gun shy—reticent
 gunning for someone—planning to harm
- H** half-cocked—reckless
 high caliber—exceptional
 hired gun—paid specialist
 hold a gun to my head—threaten
 hot shot—show-off, braggart
- I** in the crosshairs—scrutinized

- J** jumped the gun—started too early
“Just shoot me!”—“I give up!”
- K** kill joy—spoil sport
killer instinct—ruthless
- L** like shooting fish in a barrel—too easy
lock, stock and barrel—all inclusive
locked-and-loaded—ready, prepared
- M** magic bullet—perfect solution
misfired—erred
missed the mark—imperfect, fell short
moving target—hard to pin down
- O** outgunned—outmatched
on target—accurate
- P** point blank—direct, precise
point & shoot—simple, camera reference
pot shots—jabs
pull the trigger—get going
- Q** quick on the trigger—rash, hasty
- R** rapid fire—quickly
“Ready, aim, fire!”—“Go!”
riding shot gun—occupying the passenger seat, protecting a companion
rifle through files—search
- S** “She/he is a pistol!”—“She/he has spunk!”
shoot first, ask later—impetuous
shoot for—try
shoot for the moon—set high goals
shoot from the hip—impulsive
- S** shoot me an email—send me an email
shoot off your mouth—talk recklessly
shoot out—confrontation
shoot the breeze—chat, visit
shot down my idea—rejected
shot in the dark—wild guess
shot myself in the foot—made a mistake
silver bullet—perfect solution
smoking gun—proof beyond doubt
“Son of a gun!”—“Damn!”
stick to my guns—uncompromising
straight shooter—frank & honest
sweating bullets—really worried
- T** take aim—focus
take a shot at—give it a try
target market—audience segment
top gun—recognized expert
trigger a response—elicit a response
trigger alerts—heads up, warnings
trigger happy—impulsive
trip your trigger—make you happy
- U** under fire—being criticized
under the gun—feeling time-pressured
- W** whole shooting match—in total
with guns blazing—all-out effort
worth a shot—worth trying
- Y** “You’re killing me!” —“You’re too much!”

Grandparents Against Gun Violence
P.O. Box 11193
Overland Park, KS 66207
email: info@moksgagv.org
www.moksgagv.org

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THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



In 2015, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Small pension supplementation for 464 retired clergy and lay employees - \$1,500,203
- Health benefits supplementation for 235 retired clergy and lay employees - \$452,561
- Emergency grants for 58 individuals and families - \$91,694
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 528 retired clergy and lay employees - \$211,200

Your gift in 2016 will be combined with the gifts of others to continue this vital mission. Thank You!

Colonial Church Bible Study Guide

Our 10:00am Thursday morning Bible Study is beginning a read through of the entire Bible over the course of a few years. Each week we will meet to discuss the readings and explore any questions that come up. 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.

This week's readings:

Sunday, December 11 - Worship

Monday, December 12 - Read Genesis 33:1-20 - Jacob's Cowardly Reunion

Tuesday, December 13 - Read Matthew 11:1-19 - Relationship with John the Baptist

Wednesday, December 14 - Matthew 11:20-30 - Woes and Burdens

Thursday, December 15 - Bible Study at 10am at Colonial Church

Friday, December 16 - No Readings

Saturday, December 17 - Read Genesis 34:1-31 - The Rape of Dinah



The Sunday Crier

December 11, 2016

Choir Christmas Concert and Soup Supper Today

Colonial's Choir extends a warm invitation to all members, children and guest to attend the 2016 Christmas Concert. Come enjoy an early evening of joyful singing by the choir followed by a dinner of delicious soups, breads and cookies. Concert begins at 5:00 p.m., lasting approximately one hour and followed immediately by dinner. A "Love Offering" will be taken during the concert to fund the raising of the ceiling in the small chapel.

Advent at Colonial Church

- Lessons and Carols – December 18 at both services.
- Longest Night Communion Worship Service – December 21, 7:00 p.m. Our Longest Night service honors the feeling that a number of us have about this season. It is the "long, dark night of the soul," "the winter of our discontent," in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become painful. This is a special service to be with God in Spirit and in Truth.
- Christmas Eve Worship.
 - 6:00 p.m. Pageant presented by Colonial Youth
 - 8:00 p.m. Communion Worship
- Christmas Day Worship – One service at 10:15 a.m

White Privilege: Let's Talk

Our commitment to the work of racial justice includes the work of seeing and healing our spiritual wounds. Beginning the week after Martin Luther King Jr. Day Weekend – on January 22 – we are going to begin the challenging work to engage and reduce the impact of white privilege. Everyone is encouraged and invited to be part. Four Sessions – Jan. 22 and 29, Feb. 25 and March 5 immediately after 10:15 a.m. worship service. Each session will be about 2 hours. Pizza lunch (donations accepted to defray cost). Childcare available. Facilitators: Kirby Drayer, Darren Carpenter and Liza Albidress. Sign up in the narthex or online at <http://tinyurl.com/Colonial-privilege>.

*Altar
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are given by LINDA MOSES in celebration of Atticus and Rowan Moses.

HIGHLIGHTS

Tweens Holiday Open House Today

Please stop by the C.T.S. (Colonial Tween Squad) room after the 10:15 a.m. service for their Holiday Open House. Come see how the Colonial Tweens have decorated their new room for Christmas and enjoy some festive treats.

A Light Is Drawing Near: The Christmas Fund

There are bright red offering envelopes in the pews for the Christmas Fund, the annual UCC offering to help retired clergy, and clergy with difficulties. The Christmas Fund supplements the small pensions of some UCC clergy and lay employees and their families, helps retired clergy pay for health insurance, and sometimes keeps the heat on. The Christmas Fund also supports active clergy and lay employees who have medical emergencies or unexpected misfortunes that require more money than they have. This offering contributes more than \$2 million a year in assistance.

Heartland Coalition Against Gun Violence Event

Kansas Citians are invited to attend a demonstration/vigil on Wed., Dec. 14, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain east of the Plaza which will recognize the 4th anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre that took the lives of 20 young children and six school staff members. The event is a reminder to strongly support common sense gun regulations that could keep weapons out of the hands of people who should not have them, preventing thousands of future deaths and injuries.

Roberts Family Love Gift

Last year, the congregation gave our Senior Minister's family a Christmas Love Gift in recognition of their faithful ministry in this church and the community. We are again this year offering every member the opportunity to contribute to a special gift. The gift will be from the "Congregation," as no individual names will be listed. Participation is totally up to each individual family. If you choose to participate, please put your money in an envelope and mark it "Love Gift for the Roberts Family." Make checks payable to Colonial Church.

Giving Statements

The Giving Statements for the period January 1, 2016 thru November 30, 2016 have been mailed. If you gave during that period and did not receive a statement or if you have a question regarding the one you received, please call the church office.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, December 13, 6:00 p.m., Lin Vaughn's home (3108 W. 73rd St., Prairie Village). Bring an appetizer or beverage to share.
- **Book Group.** Friday, January 13, 7:00 p.m., Stephanie Graff's home. We are reading "Who Asked You?" by Terry McMillan. All are welcome.
- **Coffee and Breakfast,** Monday, January 2, 9:30 a.m., Big Biscuit.

Centering Prayer for Winter

December is a good month to take a timeout and focus on what's really important. Centering prayer is one way to do that. Join us to talk about what centering prayer is and how to do it, and then to pray together. No preparation is necessary; all are welcome. We'll meet today and Dec. 18 and on January 1 between 9:30 and 10:00 in the Preschool room downstairs. (Please note: we are skipping Christmas morning but coming together on New Year's Day to give the year a gentle start.)

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY, December 11

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.—Centering Prayer, Preschool Room.

10:15 a.m.—Worship.

10:30 a.m.—Sunday School.

11:15 a.m.—Tweens Open House, Northampton Room.

11:15 a.m.—Coffee & Conversation, Heritage Room.

5:00 p.m.—Choir Concert and Soup Supper, Sanctuary/Social Hall.

TUESDAY, December 13

9:30 a.m.—Book Group, Heritage Room.

6:00 p.m.—Colonial Women Blue Moose Tuesday, Lin Vaughn's Home.

WEDNESDAY, December 14

9:30 a.m.—Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein Brothers - Prairie Village Shops

9:30 a.m.—Writers Group, Heritage Room.

7:00 p.m.—Colonial Choir, Choir Room.

THURSDAY, December 15

10:00 a.m.—Bible Study, Pastor's office.

6:30 p.m.—AA, Oberlin Room.

FRIDAY, December 16

8:30 a.m.—Quiltmakers, Social Hall

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.

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. Service and fellowship activities are planned throughout the year.

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

Watch our Weekly Services and Sermons—You can watch our worship services on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/colonialworship-online> and get the sermon, bulletin and study guide on our website. Our 10:15am worship service is live-streamed, so please contact the church office if you have a privacy concern.

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)

Connecting Minister: Rev. Lisa Tierney (lisa.tierney@colonialucc.org)

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