



(*Angel of Peace* used with permission of Fr Lawrence Lew)

**I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.**

**-Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.**



**Colonial Church**  
*in Prairie Village*

[www.colonialucc.org](http://www.colonialucc.org)  
913-362-7735

December 24, 2016  
8:00 p.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ  
“Peace on Earth” Christmas Eve Worship Service  
in our 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**  
Hymn #125

*Adagio & Presto*  
*Angels We Have Heard on High*

-Zingarelli

Hymn #124

*Away in a Manger*

**Procession of the Christ Candle**

**Welcome**

(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.)

\* Hymn #135 verses 1,3 & 4      *Adeste Fideles*  
*(O Come, All You Faithful)*

**Lighting the Advent Candles**

-Linda Moses, Martha Wofford

**Luke 2:4-20** 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.

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!"

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.

**\* Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing to our God a new song;  
Sing to our God all the Earth.

**People: Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
Peace on Earth to all!**

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
Let Creation rejoice, let trees of the forest sing for joy!

**People: Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
Peace on Earth to all!**

**\* Song of Praise — Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High (#125)**  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**\* Sharing God's Welcome** (Greet everyone in the hope that comes with Christ with a "Merry Christmas!")

## **We Hear a Word from God**

### **A Word Proclaimed**

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

#### **Jesus' Birth = Peace on Earth**

**Luke 2:11-14** "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!"

#### **An Early Warning—It Might Not Be That Simple...**

**Luke 2:34-35** Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

#### **Jesus as Light**

**John 1:4-5** In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

#### **The Darkness of Hate and Fear**

**1 John 2:11** The person who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and lives in the darkness.

#### **God Calls Us to Bear Light**

**Psalms 82:3-6** Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

## The Sacrament of Communion

### Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: LORD, we greet you this night, because you have been at work in our world throughout time. You created all things and called them good. You claimed your people Israel, freed them from the bondage of Egypt, and journeyed with them through the wilderness to the Promised Land. You sent prophets to call your people back to you. Then in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, Emmanuel, born the King of Angels, your Word in flesh appearing. He was one of us and lived with us, giving up all his glory for our sake to make us whole. You raised him up again to overcome the power of death and live a new life. We wait for the day when we too will share the fullness of life in him and with him.

### Consecration of the Bread and Cup

#### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(As our brass quartet plays *What Child is This* (arr. by Bill Holcombe), come forward and take a piece of bread; then dip only the bread into the chalice – no fingers please. Return to your seat by the outside row.)

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.**

**We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.**

**We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world and we continue to share Christ's light with a world in need. Amen.**

## **We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer**

### **A Time of Gifts and Offerings**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Silent Night*

-Wayne Bates, flugelhorn; Joseph Kern, organ

\* 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

**O God of Hope, God of Peace, God of Joy, God of Love, we pray you bless these gifts, that they might become a blessing to this world you love so very much. May those who receive them know that you are with them, in this holy season and in all their days to come. In the name of the Child of Bethlehem who is the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.**

## **We Depart to Serve**

\* **Lighting Christ's Candle and Sharing Its 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 #134**

***Silent Night, Holy Night***

\* **Benediction**

\* **Extinguishing the Candles and Ringing in Christ's Birth**

\* **Hymn #132**

***Joy to the World!***

\* **Postlude**

*Il Est Né*

-Hudson



## *The Christmas Crier*

December 24, 2016

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).

**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, 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). Childcare available. Signup in the narthex or online at <http://tinyurl.com/Colonial-privilege>.

**Liturgist:** Bruce Edwards

**Brass Quartet:** Stan Chappell, Wayne Bates, Tom Mahan, John Porter

**Worship Graphics Operator:** Miles Roberts

**Head Usher:** Linda Moses

**Ushers:** Randy and Sue Freeman, Linda Moses, Martha and Bruce Wofford

## 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.

**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](http://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](mailto:aaron@colonialucc.org))

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

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

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

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

Bell Choir Director: Hayden Ferguson

Organist: Dr. Joseph Kern

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

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