



(*Christmas Sunrise* used with permission by Landschafts Feeling)

In baptism, new Christians become part of a body of fellow believers who are called to spiritually encourage one another and hold one another responsible for consistent Christian living.

-Tony Campolo



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

December 25, 2016
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
Christmas Morning Sunday Worship Service**

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

Gathering Music

Divinum Mysterium

-Held

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 Carol #135**

Adeste Fideles
(O Come, All You Faithful)

* **Gathering Prayer**

God of light, we thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus Christ.

We come before you with wonder and delight

that you come to us in the child born in a manger.

Be with us on this day of birth and rebirth.

Come, honor us with the presence of your gracious, joyful Spirit.

Fill our weary hearts with renewed hope and joy.

Rekindle in our souls the light of Christ.

Glory to you in the highest, O God, glory in the highest! Amen.

* **Scripture Reading**

Hebrews 1:1-4 In the past, God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways. In these final days, though, he spoke to us through a Son. God made his Son the heir of everything and created the world through him. The Son is the light of God's glory and the imprint of God's being.

He maintains everything with his powerful message. After he carried out the cleansing of people from their sins, he sat down at the right side of the highest majesty. And the Son became so much greater than the other messengers, such as angels, that he received a more important title than theirs.

* **Carol #139**

The First Nowell

* **Sharing God's Welcome** (Greet everyone in the hope of peace and friendship.)

Gospel Reading and Meditation

John 1:1-4,14,16-17 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.

Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.

The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

Sacrament of Baptism for George Donnelly

Pastor: Friends in Christ, we are here to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.**

Pastor: Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

People: **Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness." So John agreed to baptize Jesus.**

Pastor: When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him.

People: **A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."**

Pastor: At another time Jesus said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you.”

Baptismal Anthem

Mary, Did You Know?

-Lowry/Greene
-baritone, Phil Eatherton

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Carol #154 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

(Our weekly offering includes food collected in the red wagon to help fill local pantries.)

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 Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* **Carol #144**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

* **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.

* **Benediction and Postlude**

Noël Nouvelet

-Hudson

Liturgist:

Diane Kuhn

Worship Graphics Operator:

Miles Roberts

Hospitality Desk:

Marilyn Uppman

Head Usher:

Bill Yohn

Ushers:

Loren Griffith, Mary Pelton, Bill Sanderson
Bill Yohn

United Church of Christ Mission Moment - Christmas Day
A Great Light
Isaiah 9: 2-7

Welcome to Christmas on Sunday. This is the calendar year that doesn't let the pastor breathe after Christmas Eve services. No relaxing around a fire and sipping eggnog or resting on their laurels after another year's round of candle lighting and choir feeding. No, instead the alarm needs to be set and a sermon manuscript readied and stole hung carefully for the morning of Christmas. Being a pastor, as they say, is not all "cakes and ale." And it is, of course, more than that. It's also the many things that get done that no one ever hears about, like leaving the Memorial Day family picnic to be with a woman whose husband died at home; or finding a home for an indigent elderly church member; or visiting a man on death row who had wantonly gunned down three people. Some pastors have complained that nobody ever calls them when they're having a good day. Then a message like Isaiah's comes along and it happens to be Christmas, which is, as everyone knows, the birthday of Joy. And here we are with Isaiah, just as we were on the second Sunday of Advent, and this time he is proclaiming, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

James Thurber wrote, "There are two kinds of light - the glow that illuminates, and the glare that obscures." As startling as light bursting into darkness can be, this light in this darkness does not obscure. It does not drown in brightness the truth of suffering and the reality of sorrow. Instead it glows so that everything beautiful, even on the difficult days, is illumined with what is authentic and powerful. What binds us together with Christ in his humanness is his frailty and vulnerability as a baby born in a manger. It is not that we don't see suffering because we are so enamored of the shininess of Christmas but because it is in this scene that we see beauty, himself, lit from within. A beauty covered in straw, illumined by love and glowing with the pulse of possibility. Merry Christmas everyone!



The Sunday Crier

December 25, 2016

New Year's Day Worship – One service at 10:15 a.m

The Christmas Fund

There are red offering envelopes in the pew racks for the Christmas Fund, the UCC appeal for retired clergy with limited means. In this season of giving, please remember the folks who have worked so hard for the church, and now need our help.

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>.

Adult Christian Education Series

Beginning in January 2017, we're going to turn to CS Lewis' "Mere Christianity" for our monthly topics. "Mere Christianity" was written after the Second World War, but it addresses some of the basics of faith and morality. His writing is simple and profound. January 8 - Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe; February 12 - What Christians Believe; March 5 - Christian Behaviour; April 9 (Palm Sunday) - Beyond Personality: Or First Steps in the Doctrine of the Trinity. At each session, we'll discuss the reading. First, to understand the point that CS Lewis is making, and your response to him. **Signup in the narthex or at <http://tinyurl.com/AdultEd2017>**

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.

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed December 26-January 2. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. For emergency pastoral needs, call the church office at 913-362-7735 and press 2.

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)

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

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

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

Bell Choir Director: Hayden Ferguson

Organist: Dr. Joseph Kern

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

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

Building Maintenance: Mike McGill (mike.mcgill@colonialucc.org)