



(Wall from Hezekiah's reign against Sennacherib's siege used with permission by Lior Golgher.)

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

-Albert Einstein



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

December 4, 2016
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“False Peace” 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

Veni, Emmanuel

-Peeters

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 #116** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

* **Advent Lighting the Candle of Peace**

-UCC Worship Ways

Leader: We are God’s gathered people.

People: And so come to this moment filled with holy hope.

Leader: May justice roll down

People: And peace flow like a mighty river around the world

Leader: May equity be the reality for generations yet to come

People: And may peace flow throughout humanity, as it did with the One

Leader: The One who was sent here, the One who sent us, the One whose power never fails

People: Peace is possible and we are resolved today to believe. For if God be for us, then anything we dream of can be a reality. We light this candle as we proclaim peace around the world. We stand together, from one end of the Earth to the other, knowing Emmanuel - God is with us.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

* 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 Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

The Familiar Christmas Passage...

Matthew 1:22-23 Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled: Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means "God with us.")

The Rest of the Prophet's Story

Isaiah 7:14-16 [Isaiah said to King Ahaz:] "The Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel. He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good. Before the boy learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned."

King Hezekiah's Prayer as Jerusalem is Surrounded

2 Kings 19:15-19 Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying, "LORD God of Israel, you sit enthroned on the winged creatures. You alone are God over all the earth's kingdoms. You made both heaven and earth. LORD, turn your ear this way and hear! LORD, open your eyes and see! Listen to Sennacherib's words. He sent them to insult the living God! It's true, LORD, that the Assyrian kings have destroyed many nations and their lands. The Assyrians burned the gods of those nations with fire because they aren't real gods. They are only man-made creations of wood and stone. That's how the Assyrians could destroy them. So now, LORD our God, please save us from Sennacherib's power! Then all the earth's kingdoms will know that you, LORD, are the only true God."

Isaiah Responds to King Hezekiah's Prayer

2 Kings 19:32-37 "Therefore, this is what the LORD says about Assyria's king: He won't enter this city. He won't shoot a single arrow there. He won't come near the city with a shield. He won't build a ramp to besiege it. He will go back by the same way he came. He won't enter this city, declares the LORD. I will defend this city and save it for my sake and for the sake of my servant David."

That night the LORD's messenger went out and struck down one hundred eighty-five thousand soldiers in the Assyrian camp. When people got up the next morning, there were dead bodies everywhere. So Assyria's King Sennacherib departed, returning to Nineveh, where he stayed.

A New Prophet for a New Generation

Jeremiah 6:13-15 "From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush."

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

A Word in Our Holy Meal

-written by Lisa Frentz

Communion Prayer

Leader: In the beginning, O God, there was only you. We lived with you, walked with you, and your presence was like the light of a thousand suns blazing. Yet we turned away from that light and walked into the dark. We hid from the glory of your fire. Our eyes were blinded by your brightness. Even so, you did not turn from us. You gave us the promise of a new light, the hope of our reconciliation. You promised us your Son.

People: **We await the fulfillment of your promise. We look into the dark, with eyes unused to your radiance, and see an ember burning. Renew our eyes. Send us your light, O God.**

Leader: In the beginning, O God, there was only you. And you moved to save us from our blindness, to lead us from our dark wanderings, and to bring us back into the light of day. Little by little you have revealed your light. Little by little you have accustomed us to the coming fire. Through Sarah and Abraham, through Jacob and Isaac, through Moses and David, through Mary and Joseph, you have slowly uncovered the ember of our hope still burning. You have revealed to us Christ Jesus.

People: **We have walked with Sarah. We have walked with Abraham and all your prophets. We have tried to open our eyes to the light. Help us to see again. Help us to endure the light of your coming. Send us your light, our hope and our salvation. Send us your Son. Send us Jesus.**

Leader: In the beginning, O God, there was only you: Creator, Word and Breath. And from that beginning we see our birth. From that beginning we see our salvation. From that beginning we see our source of life.

People: **Come, loving Parent.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come to us now.**

Consecration of the Bread and Cup

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(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. Our choir will sing *This Holy Place* by Mark Hayes as we go forward.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Through God and with God and in God is all glory and honor, all life and light, now and forever. Amen.

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *The Son of God is Come* -Dupre
(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

Divine One, thank you for another opportunity to support those among us who are in need. We ask you now, O God, to bless these funds so they may be a blessing to those who struggle to survive. We respond in faith, God, and we thank you in advance for what it is you're about to do. In the name of Christ who is our hope and our peace. 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 #593

Lift Every Voice and 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.

* **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**

Veni, Emmanuel

-Kern

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 4 - Worship

Monday, December 5 - Read Genesis 33:1-20 - Jacob's Cowardly Reunion

Tuesday, December 6 - Read Matthew 11:1-19 - Relationship with John the Baptist

Wednesday, December 7 - Matthew 11:20-30 - Woes and Burdens

Thursday, December 8 - Bible Study at 10am at Colonial Church

Friday, December 9 - No Readings

Saturday, December 10 - Read Genesis 34:1-31 - The Rape of Dinah

Sunday Worship Leaders:

Liturgist:	Mariam Fleming
Advent Candlelighter:	Brook Carson
Videographer:	Geoff Robinson
Worship Graphics Operator:	Hayden Ferguson
Children's Conversation:	Martha Wofford
Hospitality Desk:	Elizabeth Uppman
Head Usher:	Howard Lee
Ushers:	Marylee Battaglia, Rosalie Henry, Cindy Lafferty, Marion Taylor



The Sunday Crier

December 4, 2016

Advent Festival Today - Children's Pageant, Crafts, Chili-Soup Cookoff and Dinner

3:30-6:30 p.m. Join us for the annual Advent Festival that is new and improved with the addition of Children's Pageant and a bake sale.

Festival Schedule

3:30-4:00 Children's Pageant

4:00-5:30 Crafts (\$5/person or max of \$20/ family)

5:30-6:30 Chili/Soup Cook-Off and meal (freewill donations accepted)

5:00-6:30 Bake Sale to benefit the Shawnee Mission East Chinese Club

Choir Christmas Concert and Soup Supper Next Sunday

Colonial's Choir extends a warm invitation to all members, children and guest to attend the 2016 Christmas Concert. Come and enjoy an early evening of joyful singing by the choir followed by a dinner of delicious soups, breads and cookies. Our 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. The money collected will help to fund the raising of the ceiling in the small chapel.

Giving Tree

We have adorned our traditional Christmas tree in the narthex with bright red and gold Season of Peace cards. On one side of the card is a challenging question about peace, followed by an action and prayer suitable for individual contemplation or family discussion. On the other side of the card is a suggested gift for a child or teenager from Operation Breakthrough, an early education and social services facility serving 400 children daily in Kansas City's urban core. Gifts should be unwrapped and delivered to the tree by next Sunday. For some of the larger gifts, several families may want to go together or committees may want to purchase. All gifts are welcome, even if not printed on the back of a tree card.

*Altar
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are given by CATHERINE BOWSER in memory of John V. Bowser & Eugene and Grace Myers.

HIGHLIGHTS

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 to clergy and lay employees. In earlier years, ministers' compensation often was woefully inadequate, and this is a way we can help care for folks who cared for us.

Colonial Friends to Visit Longview Mansion for Tour and Lunch

The deadline is today to join Colonial Friends for a visit to Longview Mansion on Wednesday, December 21 and lunch. The mansion will be decorated for Christmas. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and leave at 9:45 a.m. The tour is at 10:30 a.m. and lasts about 90 minutes. Lunch will follow. Cost for tour and lunch is \$20 per person. RSVP to Joe Cunningham (913-341-6303 or runningrev2@aol.com).

Tweens Holiday Open House

Please stop by the C.T.S. (Colonial Tween Squad) room on Sunday, Dec. 11, 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.

Cross-Lines Christmas Store

We are collecting money to buy household goods for the 500 families who will shop at the store. We supply laundry detergent, dish detergent, toilet paper, facial tissue, and hand soap. We had wonderful donations last Sunday, but we still need more than \$500 to provide items for everyone. A contribution of \$50 will provide six packs of toilet paper for more than 40 families! Please be generous. Write a check to the church with Christmas Store in the memo line. Or put cash in an envelope with Christmas Store written on the envelope.

Poinsettias for the Altar

Poinsettias will be placed on the altar for the Advent/Christmas season. You can order a plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one by using the the order form included, filling it out and placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the church office with payment. Cost is \$15. While we do not purchase a plant for every memorial, plants will be available to be taken home on Sunday, December 25.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Coffee and Breakfast**, Monday, December 5, 9:30 a.m., Big Biscuit.

- **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.

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, Dec. 11 and 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.) For more information, contact Elizabeth Uppman at elizabethuppman@kc.surewest.net.

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY, December 4

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.—Coffee & Conversation, Heritage Room.
 3:30-6:30 p.m.—Advent Festival.

MONDAY, December 5

9:30 a.m.—Colonial Women Coffee, Big Biscuit.

TUESDAY, December 6

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group, Perkins.
 9:30 a.m.—Book Group, Heritage Room.

WEDNESDAY, December 7

9:30 a.m.—Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein Brothers - Prairie Village Shops
 7:00 p.m.—Colonial Choir, Choir Room.
 6:00 p.m.—OWL, Parents meeting, Heritage Room

THURSDAY, December 8

9:00 a.m. Care Committee, Heritage Room.
 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study, Cambridge Room.
 6:30 p.m.—AA, Oberlin Room.

FRIDAY, December 9

7:00 p.m.—Youth Group Lock-in.

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)

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