



(yellow bucket used with permission by sammydavisdog)

**'Thank you' is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. 'Thank you' expresses extreme gratitude, humility, understanding.**

**-Alice Walker**



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

February 19, 2017  
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ  
Does “Being Good” Count for Anything? Sunday Worship Service  
in the series “No Certain Faith”**

*Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.*

\* Please rise in body or spirit

**We Gather as God’s Beloved People**

**Gathering Music**

*Wo Gott zum Haus*

-Sedio

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

**A Time of Confession - James 2**

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**What good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can’t save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don’t actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn’t result in faithful activity.**

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Grace

\* **Sung Response — 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**

*Worship God with Music*

-Natalie Sleeth

**A Word Proclaimed**

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

**I Hate You. I Wish You Were Dead.**

**Luke 15:11-12** A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them.

**Leaving Home**

**Luke 15:13-14** The younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living. When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need.

**Crossroads**

**Luke 15:15-19** He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving

to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands."

### **Starting Anew with the God of Resurrecting Grace**

**Luke 15:20-24** So he got up and went to his father. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son...'

But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

### **I've Got the Bucket - So Why Be Good?**

**Romans 6:14-15** Sin will have no power over you...

So what? Should we sin because we aren't under Law but under grace?

### **Gratitude for Light, Life, and Love**

**Matthew 5:14-16** [Jesus said:] "You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, *let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.*"

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

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

\* Hymn #17 vs 1-5      *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*This Day Full of Gladness*

-Dupre

(Our weekly offering includes food collected in the red wagon 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.***

\* Blessing the Offering

**Thank you, LORD, for the blessings in my life. You have provided me with all I have needed. You have surrounded me with people who care for me. I pray that you remind me of just how blessed I am so I don't forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned acts of kindness. 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.**



## 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, February 19 - Worship

Monday, February 20 - Read Genesis 41:1-57 - Pharaoh's Dreams

Tuesday, February 21 - Read Matthew 13:1-23 - Parable of the Soils

Wednesday, February 22 - Read Matthew 13:24-58 - Parables

Thursday, February 23 - Bible Study at 10am at Colonial Church

Friday, February 24 - No Readings

Saturday, February 25 - Read Genesis 42:1-38 - The Family Comes to Egypt

United Church of Christ Mission Moment - February 19, 2017  
Expanding Boundaries  
Matthew 5: 38-48

The “eye for an eye” injunction comes from the legal code in Exodus and may have been intended to keep punishments for crimes evenly balanced, weighed on a scale, so that if someone loses a thumb in a crime they don’t lose an eye as well but just a thumb. The Latin legal term for this is *Lex talionis* or the law of retaliation, one for one. It expresses the notion of retributive justice or that the punishment should fit the crime. What’s so wrong with that, we might ask? But there goes Jesus turning over tables again. In today’s scripture he stretches our notions of compassion and messes with our ideas of justice as a scale. Jesus wants us to turn the other cheek, give to people who sue us, love our enemies. At the very least these words should give us pause, especially when we think about our system of justice and how we treat people who are incarcerated, both when they are in prison and when they get out.

Do we hope for redemption and compassion in the way our legal system hands out prison terms, or do we promote vindictive punishments and retaliatory sentences? How do we treat those who have been imprisoned? What hope do we hold out for them? Here in the United States, we make it difficult for people to get work and find housing. We withhold the right to vote and thus we turn every incarceration into a life sentence.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ continues to call upon all of us to work toward reforming our nation’s justice system. We are called by Jesus to think beyond scales and an “eye for an eye.” He calls us to expand our understanding of justice. If you want to learn more about our criminal justice system and how you can promote training and rehabilitation in prisons and work to reduce mass incarceration go to [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and search for “prison reform.”



## *The Sunday Crier*

February 19, 2017

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### **Trivia Night 2017**

Sign up today in the narthex for our annual Trivia Night on Saturday, February 25, at 6:00 p.m., Social Hall. Teams will be comprised of six people. If you don't have a team, we'll help you find a spot on a team. The cost is \$60 per team and you can pay that evening. Bring snacks to share with the whole group. Beverages will be provided. Beer and wine tickets are \$2.00. Child care will be provided at the church but please let us know how many children you are bringing.

### **Refugee Team**

The Justice and Witness Committee is forming a team to explore the possibility of refugee sponsorship and support with Jewish Vocational Services and/or other organizations in order to make recommendations to the congregation of ways to address this issue. Current policies and problems make this an important social justice item that calls us to respond. Please contact Jayne Quimby ([jqm333@aol.com](mailto:jqm333@aol.com) or 816-807-3592) to become a member of this team and guide our actions.

### **Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes**

Colonial is observing Ash Wednesday, March 1, from 7:30-9:00 a.m. with a drive-thru imposition of ashes. Pastor Aaron will be in the driveway in front of the church to place ashes in the sign of the cross on the foreheads of the faithful. All who choose to avail themselves of this opportunity are welcome to participate as the season of Lent begins the 40-day period of prayer leading to Easter.

### **Centering Prayer for Lent**

Instead of giving up something for Lent this year, why not try a new spiritual practice? Join us for a new session of Centering Prayer during Lent. On March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9, we'll meet in the Preschool room downstairs between 9:30 and 10:00. We'll spend a little time checking in and talking about Centering Prayer and then we'll pray together. No preparation is necessary; all are welcome. For more information, contact Elizabeth Uppman at [elizabethuppmann@kc.surewest.net](mailto:elizabethuppmann@kc.surewest.net).

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*Altar  
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are given by DONNA AND TIM OWENS in celebration of their grandchildren.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Vacation Bible School 2017** — Save the date for Maker Fun Factory on July 11-14 at Colonial!

**Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate** — The Justice and Witness Committee offers a selection of Fair Trade chocolate bars and ground coffee for purchase after the 10:15 service on the second Sunday of the month. The next opportunity will be Mar. 12.

**Opportunities to Expand Your Circle of Friends** — The next few weeks will offer many opportunities to expand your circle of friends among members of the Muslim faith. Dialogue Institute of the Southwest is sponsoring their 12th annual Friendship Dinner on April 6. The Justice and Witness Committee is sponsoring a table; speak to a member of the committee if you would like to attend. March 26 will be Baklava Day in the Heritage Room after the second service. Turkish Baklava is a treat not to be missed. Watch the bulletin board in the narthex for dates and descriptions of lessons in the Turkish language, cooking lessons and classes in water marbling held in the Institute building at 4215 Shawnee Drive. Brunch is served each Saturday at that location with a speaker on a variety of topics. Best of all, watch for information about sharing light meals, evening discussions and other small group meetings to share more about customs, beliefs and stories. Members of the Justice and Witness Committee will answer questions, help schedule meetings and share thoughts on how we can support those who share our Abrahamic roots.

### Colonial Women Activities

- **Book Group.** Friday, February 24, 7:00 p.m., home of Stephanie Graff. Discuss the book *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker. The novel is a poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma that spans the decades between the 1950s and the present. It tells a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the reader's belief in the power of love to move mountains.
- **Alden Guild.** Thursday, March 2, 6:00 p.m., Cactus Grill, 11849 Roe, Leawood, KS
- **Breakfast and Coffee.** Monday, March 6, 9:30 a.m., Big Biscuit.
- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, March 14, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Village.

**Thinking About Becoming a Member of Colonial Church?** — A New Member class is starting up in March, a perfect opportunity for anyone new to our community who is curious about joining. You'll meet your fellow seekers, learn more about this community, and find ways of serving God with us. Led by Stacy Lybarger with help from guest speakers, the class will meet on March 5, 26 and April 2, at 9:15 a.m. Join us!

**Adult Christian Education Series** — We are turning 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. March 5 - Christian Behaviour; April 9 (Palm Sunday) - Beyond Personality: Or First Steps in the Doctrine of the Trinity.

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## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

### **TODAY, February 19**

8:30 am—Worship  
 9:00—Marketing Task Force, Oberlin Room  
 9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library  
 10:15—Worship  
 10:30—Sunday School  
 11:15—Board of Christian Education, Oberlin Room

### **MONDAY, February 20**

Office Closed—Presidents Day

### **TUESDAY, February 21**

9:30 am—Book Group, Heritage Room  
 7:00 pm—Board of Property Management, Oberlin Room

### **WEDNESDAY, February 22**

9:30 am—Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein Brothers - Prairie Village Shops  
 7:00 pm—Colonial Choir, Choir Room

### **THURSDAY, February 23**

9:00 am—Care Committee, Heritage Room  
 10:00 am—Bible Study, Pastor's Office  
 6:30 pm—AA, Oberlin Room

### **FRIDAY, February 24**

7:00 pm—Colonial Women Book Group, Stephanie Graff's Home

### **SATURDAY, February 25**

6:00 pm—Trivia Night, Social Hall

### **SUNDAY, February 26**

8:30 am—Worship  
 9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library  
 10:15—Worship  
 10:30—Sunday School  
 11:30—White Privilege Seminar, Social Hall  
 2:00 pm—AHH Cooking, Social Hall Kitchen

## 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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