



(Memories of the Past with permission by Antoine Skipper)

Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

-Lao Tzu



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

July 9, 2017
10:15 a.m.

The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
The First Pillar: The Holy Force Sunday Worship Service
in the series *Jedi 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

May the Force Be With You

-Williams

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!

Sacrament of Baptism of Charles Blake

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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."

Leader: 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 Hymn #351 *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

* **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 Holy Force is in You

1 Corinthians 6:19 Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you? Don't you know that you have the Holy Spirit from God, and you don't belong to yourselves?

The Holy Force Controls Your Actions...Partially

Matthew 10:18-20 [Jesus said, "People] will haul you in front of governors and even kings because of me so that you may give your testimony to them and to the Gentiles. Whenever they hand you over, don't worry about how to speak or what you will say, because what you can say will be given to you at that moment. You aren't doing the talking, but the Spirit of God is doing the talking through you.

Beware the Dark Side

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, don't believe every spirit. Test the spirits to see if they are from God because many false prophets have gone into the world.

When We Wander Off and Find Where Demons Dwell

1 Timothy 4:1-2 The Spirit clearly says that in latter times some people will turn away from the faith. They will pay attention to spirits that deceive and to the teaching of demons. They will be controlled by the pretense of lying, and their own consciences will be seared.

The Holy Force Will Be with You - Always

Romans 8:26-27 The Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit herself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because she pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will.

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn #355 *God the Spirit, Guide, and Guardian*

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Come to Me* -Christopher Grundy
 (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

**Welcoming One, bless these gifts with your Spirit
 Transform these gifts into the balm that your world needs.
 In these gifts, may we welcome in a new world of love. 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 #283

Spirit of the Living God

* **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**

The Throne Room

-Williams

Liturgist:

Bruce Wofford

Videographer:

Geoff Robinson

Worship Graphics Operator:

Hayden Ferguson

Children's Conversation:

Pastor Aaron Roberts

Hospitality Table:

Bekki Walsh

Head Usher:

Chester Bender

Ushers:

Chester Bender, Rosalie Henry

Howard Lee, Mary Pelton

Parents of the Baptized Child:

Kyle Handley and Elizabeth Blake

United Church of Christ Mission Moment for Sunday, July 9, 2017

Chosen Journeys

If you could hover in the sky over Baltimore as all the delegates to General Synod left for their homes, and if all those delegates were all wearing the same solid color – let's say, blue – and you could watch all the blue-colored people from your vantage point in the sky what would you see? You would see blue trails that spread out and clumped together at airports and scattered again by cars and trains. It would probably look like a kaleidoscope moving and swirling and changing patterns as all the bodies moved then stopped for lunch, changed direction or decided on new routes, until finally everyone was somewhere. The next day, without their blue outfits, they would blend back into the everyday journeys we all take; to work, or groceries, the post office, visiting friends.

What if we always left a wake, or a trail, behind ourselves in the molecules of every place we ever went? Suppose we could shine a black light that would capture all those molecules and highlight them? What would we see? What patterns or light rails do we leave behind between friends, changed jobs, relationships, life choices? Could we look back in time and see the exact spot where we made a choice that changed our life? Would we see from our vantage point in time the other permutations of every choice?

All journeys create patterns and lay new paths. The United Church of Christ turns 60, and in those years it has hit many crossroads, made resolutions and pronouncements. We have restructured and reorganized. We have supported causes of justice and created an ever-widening welcome. We have become more inclusive and more ready each year to be the church. All along the way our molecules have swirled with our travels and stopped at every turning point poised and waiting for the nudge of the spirit or a whisper, or a kick to move us to the next stop and the next turn. As people of faith, we believe that all these stops and turns matter, and from the vantage point of distance – either high in the sky or from years hence – we see an open possibility of all the future journeys and choices ahead of us.



The Sunday Crier

July 9, 2017

Living the Questions 2.0 Sunday Morning ACE Begins Today. People know that, at its core, Christianity has something good to offer humanity. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a “thinking” Christian and that “salvaging” Christianity is a hopeless task. Living the Questions is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they’ve always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic. We will begin the Living the Questions sessions in our Sunday morning Adult Christian Education today at 9:15 a.m. in the Cambridge Room (It’s usually the 2nd Sunday of the month). Signup at <https://colonialucc.infellowship.com/Group/Show/2084138>

July Sermon Series: JEDI FAITH



The Jedi of the Star Wars universe rely on the mysterious power of the Force. In many ways, this experience is like that of the Holy Spirit. Christian discipleship is a path of exploring the living Spirit. This July we’re going to begin like Initiates with the 3 Pillars of Jedi Faith and the mystery beyond.

July 9 - The First Pillar: The Holy Force

July 16 - The Second Pillar: Knowledge

July 23 - The Third Pillar: Self Discipline

July 30 - Transcending Death

Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate Today. The Justice and Witness Committee offers a selection of Fair Trade chocolate bars and ground coffee for purchase in the narthex following the 10:15 service on the second Sunday of each month. Purchase yours today. The next opportunity will be August 13.

*Altar
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are given by MARY PELTON in memory of her mother, father and brother.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, July 11, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Village.
- **Book Group.** Friday, July 28, 7:00 p.m., Stephanie Graff's home. We will be discussing "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi. Each chapter in the novel follows a different descendant of an Asante woman named Maame, starting with her two daughters, separated by circumstance. Generation after generation, the author's first novel sets the fate of the individual against the obliterating movements of time, delivering unforgettable characters whose lives were shaped by historical forces beyond their control. The story begins with Maame's daughters, Effia, who marries the British governor in charge of Cape Coast Castle, and her half-sister Esi, who is held captive in the dungeons below.
- **Coffee.** Monday, August 7, 9:30 a.m., Big Biscuit.

Serve the Homeless. It is exciting to be a part of the work that Kar Woo offers to needy area residents and the next meal will be served on the Plaza on July 23. To help with the preparation, bake cookies to serve or to come to the Plaza to share, sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/AHH-Colonial> or with pen on the bulletin board in the narthex. The online sign-up is available for all dates through the end of the year so please consider whether you can bake cookies, purchase the food, cook at Colonial the day of or help serve the meal. Meals are cooked at Colonial and served by the JC Nichols Fountain on the Plaza, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Help with Worship Music During the Summer. This summer we want your help with planning our special music during worship. So, we'd like you to tell us what hymn, instrumental, or spiritually significant song that you'd like to have as part of our Sunday morning worship. You are welcome to offer to perform the music, have Joseph play it, or suggest the recorded version that we use. Please enter your suggestion at: <http://tinyurl.com/summer-worship>

Fellowship Beverage/Snack Hosts. We are seeking people to host the fellowship time after 10:15 service in the Heritage Room on Sundays. They provide a beverage and snack, set up the room, visit with guests, and clean up. This typically requires 15 minutes before end of service for setup and 30 minutes after church for hosting and clean-up. Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/colonial-worship2017>. Scroll down to find available dates. Please contact Barrie Herbst (913-859-9320; bherbst@pbnmed.com) for training prior to your Sunday volunteer time.

Feed the Hungry Donations. Thanks to all who make a habit of bringing a contribution of food for the red wagon in the narthex. Each Sunday the contents are delivered to the Village Church Food Pantry, who distribute items to patrons all over the Kansas City area. You can also write a check for the collection plate marked "Food Pantry" on the memo line. You do make a difference. Be a part!

Colonial Bible Study. Our 10:00 a.m. Thursday morning Bible Study is reading through the entire Bible over the course of a few years. Each week we 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. Even if you cannot come on Thursday mornings, you can email Pastor Aaron. *Keep the simple point in mind: our primary purpose is not simply learning information about the Bible. It is hearing God speak.*

The Week Ahead

TODAY, July 9

8:30 am—Worship

9:15—Adult Christian Ed—Living the Questions, Cambridge Room

9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library

10:15—Worship

10:30—Sunday School

11:15—Lemonade & Conversation, Heritage Room

TUESDAY, July 11

9:00 am—VBS

9:30 am—Book Group, Heritage Room

5:30 pm—Colonial Women Blue Moose Tuesday, Prairie Village

WEDNESDAY, July 12

9:00 am—VBS

9:30 am—Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein Brothers in Prairie Village Shops

THURSDAY, July 13

9:00 am—VBS

10:00—Bible Study, Pastor's Office

6:30 pm—AA, Oberlin Room

FRIDAY, July 14

9:00 am—VBS

SUNDAY, July 16

8:30 am—Worship

9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library

10:15—Worship

10:30—Sunday School

11:15—Lemonade & Conversation, Heritage Room

11:30—Council/Administrative Board, 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.roberts@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)

Communications Manager: Sally Huggins (sallyhuggins@yahoo.com)

Building Maintenance: Edson Palacios-Castrejon (edson.palacios-castrejon@colonialucc.org)