



(Image used with permission by Ze'ev Barkan)

**"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."
What do people gain from all their labors at which
they toil under the sun? -Kohelet**



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

June 5, 2016
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“Meaningless” Sunday Worship Service
in the series *More Than Common Phrases***

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Benedictus

-William Lloyd Webber

Eric Williams, violin; Ann Marie Rigler, organ

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!

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Grace

Sacrament of Baptism for Cora Snodgrass

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 Hymn #325 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

* **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
It's All Meaningless**

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its

course. All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.

Wisdom is Better than Folly...

Ecclesiastes 2:11-14 When I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Then I turned my thoughts to consider wisdom, and also madness and folly. What more can the king's successor do than what has already been done? I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness. The wise have eyes in their heads, while the fool walks in the darkness...

...But We're All Going to Die

Ecclesiastes 2:14-17...but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both. Then I said to myself, "The fate of the fool will overtake me also. What then do I gain by being wise?" I said to myself, "This too is meaningless." For the wise, like the fool, will not be long remembered; the days have already come when both have been forgotten. Like the fool, the wise too must die! So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Choosing Joy in Your Own Toil

Ecclesiastes 2:22-26 What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without God, who can eat or find enjoyment? **To the person who pleases God, that one is given wisdom, knowledge and joy,** but to the sinner he

gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Express your thoughts via social media at #ColonialUCC.

A Word in Our Holy Meal

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your constant love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets. We especially thank you that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live with us, to share our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the angels and with the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High!

Consecration of the Bread and Cup

Sharing the Bread and Wine

(As the bread and cup are served, we will sing *I Come with Joy*, which is #349 in the hymnal. Drink the cup as you are served as a sign of God's particular love for you. Hold the bread until everyone has been served, and we will eat it together as a sign of our unity in Christ.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our hope so that it may become faith, and deepen our faith in trusting you. Increase our love for one another, and let our lives be witnesses for your glory; through Jesus Christ – the one who saves our lives. Amen.

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Sarabande from Suite No. 6* -J. S. Bach
Eric Williams, violin; Ann Marie Rigler, organ
(Our weekly offering includes food collected 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

Holy One, we give back to you today as a sign of thankfulness. Fill our hearts with compassion and joy as we sow your seeds in the world. 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 #76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

* **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**

Dove of Peace

-Kern

Congregational Annual Meeting (Members please remain following the worship for our Annual Meeting.)

Colonial Church Bible Study Guide

Our 10:00am Thursday morning Bible Study is covering the Apocrypha. 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.

Lesson 8 - Judith

Homework - Read Judith 8-16

The Apocrypha is not commonly read or studied. In many Bibles it is not included. During this eighth week of the study, we will read the Judith, a fictional story of a brave woman of God who saved the nation from its enemy.

Judith upholds the theology that God's power can bring victory to a lesser power. God weakness is stronger than the most powerful human empire.

This will be our last study group of the Apocrypha. If you would like a copy of the supporting reading, please contact Pastor Aaron to have a copy sent to you.

Liturgist:	Bekki Walsh
Videographer:	Tim Taylor
Worship Graphics Operator:	Hayden Huggins
Children's Conversation:	Pastor Aaron Roberts
Communion Servers:	Sally Huggins, Stacy Huggins, Cindy Lafferty
Greeters:	Bob and Dianne Starcke
Head Usher:	Bob Starcke
Ushers:	Rosalie Henry, Carolyn Pitts, Judy and Bob LeVeau



The Sunday Crier

June 5, 2016

Annual Meeting Today

The following slate of candidates will be presented by the Nominating Committee for approval at the annual meeting today following the 10:15 a.m. service.

- Moderator: Jayne Quimby
- Assistant Moderator: Kirby Drayer
- Board of Christian Education: Martha Wofford
- Board of Community and Member Development: Elizabeth Uppman
- Board of Property Management: Bill Sanderson
- Board of Stewardship: Jan Parkinson
- Board of Worship: Linda Moses
- Board of Parish Life: Barrie Herbst and Lin Vaughn, Co-Chairs

Sign Up for VBS 2016

Weird animals are taking over VBS June 14-17 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Colonial. This VBS is all about accepting the differences in yourself and others, and how the world wouldn't work if we were all exactly the same! Register your children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors at colonialucc.org at the bottom of the page. We also need help! Sign up to volunteer at <http://tinyurl.com/colonialvbs-16>.

Ramadan Post-Fast Dinner

Colonial will host a Ramadan post-fast dinner on Monday, June 13 in the Social Hall. Registration 8:00-8:15 p.m.; presentation about Ramadan 8:15 p.m.; dinner 8:50 p.m. The late start is required so that the Ramadan fast not be broken until after sunset. It is a great opportunity to learn more of the religious holiday. If you would like to be a part of this celebration, please contact Bruce Edwards at 678-662-0956 or Mariam Fleming, 913-648-5848, mariamfleming@gmail.com.

*Altar
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are provided by Jayne Quimby and Jan Parkinson in honor of their anniversary and Jan's birthday.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sermon Series: More Than Common Phrases. Ecclesiastes (Kohélet in Hebrew) is regarded by some as the most curmudgeonly and cynical of all books in the Bible. It is also the most requested book for a sermon series in the Colonial Church community! Ecclesiastes is a book mostly known for common phrases like: *"There is nothing new under the sun."* *"For everything there is a season..."* *"Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."* *"All is vanity."* *"Everything is meaningless."* In June, we're going to look beyond the common phrases into the wisdom of the Teacher who invites people away from striving - thinking it all depends on us, and learning what it means to wait upon the LORD.

Did You Know ... that when you are asked to sign the pew registers on Sunday we are not trying to be Big Brother? All members and guest are asked to sign the registers because it allows us to make contact with prospective new members and it allows us to be able to reach out to our membership when we haven't seen them in awhile. Many times we find that folks are ill, hospitalized or for some reason homebound. Please take the time to register every Sunday. Why? Because Colonial cares about each and every one of you.

A Streetcar Named Desire. Well, not really, but close. Would anyone be interested in carpooling from Colonial to Union Station some Sunday after the second service, taking the streetcar from there to either the Power and Light or River Market, eating, and coming back? Kids welcome too, everyone can do it. If you are, please let Bill Sanderson know via email (bills043@gmail) or tell him at church. If a few people want to do it, we can talk and set up an agreeable Sunday later in June or even early July. Bill will take care of the reservations, etc... if people want to do it. Sign up!!!

Organ Solo. Colonial parishioner Ann Marie Rigler invites everyone to a performance of organ solo and chamber music at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral (415 West 13th Street, downtown KCMO) this Friday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m. Ann Marie will share the program with the Clarion Duo: organist Melody Steed (Bethany College) and trumpeter Keith Benjamin (UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance). The concert is one of about 100 events featuring women organists from around the world to be held during the week of June 5-12 under the auspices of Musforum, an organization of women organists (www.musforum.org).

Standing Naked Before God Study Group. Sitting with the pain and joy of being a human, while refusing to run for any exits, is the only way to become a real human being. Brave is a decision. Email Rev. Caitie Smith at caitie.smith@colonialucc.org if you are interested in joining the study. The group meets Sundays in the Library immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service.

Feed the Hungry Donations. This week and every week, don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry on Sunday.

Colonial Women Activities

- Breakfast and Coffee at Big Biscuit. Monday, June 6, at 9:30 a.m. at Big Biscuit.
- Blue Moose Tuesday. Tuesday, June 14, 5:30 p.m. Blue Moose in Prairie Village.
- Book Group. Friday, July 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Stephanie Graff, 4141 W. 111th Terrace, Leawood, KS 66211. The group will be discussing *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara.

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY — June 5

8:30 a.m.—Worship.

9:15 a.m.—That Was the Week That Was, Library.

10:15 a.m.—Worship.

10:30 a.m.—Sunday School.

11:15 a.m.—Annual Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary.

11:15 a.m.—Lemonade on the Lawn.

11:15 a.m.—Standing Naked Before God Study Group, Library.

11:30 a.m.—Council, Social Hall and Northampton Room.

MONDAY, June 6

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

TUESDAY, June 7

8:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast Group, Perkins.

9:30 a.m.—Book Group, Heritage Room.

WEDNESDAY, June 8

9:30 a.m. —Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein's in Prairie Village.

THURSDAY, June 9

10:00 a.m.—Bible Study, Pastor's Office.

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.

Listen to our Weekly Messages—You can listen to the sermon and get the bulletin and study guide on our website.

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](https://www.instagram.com/colonial_ucc); Twitter:

#ColonialUCC; Follow Pastor Aaron: [@PastorARoberts](https://twitter.com/PastorARoberts)

COLONIAL STAFF

Senior Minister: Rev. Aaron Roberts (aaron@colonialucc.org)

Associate Pastor: Rev. Caitie Smith (caitie.smith@colonialucc.org)

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

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

Bell Choir Director: Hayden Huggins

Organist: Dr. Joseph Kern

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

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

Building Maintenance: Mike McGill

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