



(*Thorny Plants* used with permission by Colonial Church Sunday School.)

The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Colonial Church
in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

November 13, 2016
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
 “Worries and Wealth” Sunday Worship Service
 in the series *Together We Can Blossom!***

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Chant de Paix (Song of Peace)

-Langlais

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 #591**

This Is My Song

A Christian Witness to be Part of the Healing of the Nation

A COVENANT FOR CIVILITY: Come Let Us Reason Together

How good and pleasant it is when the people of God live together in unity.

—Psalm 133:1

- 1) We commit that our dialogue with each other will reflect the spirit of the Scriptures, where our posture toward each other is to be “quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).
- 2) We believe that each of us, and our fellow human beings, are created in the image of God. The respect we owe to God should be reflected in the honor and respect we show to each other in our common humanity, particularly in how we speak to each other. “With the tongue we bless the Lord and Father,

and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God this ought not to be so” (James 3:9, 10).

- 3) We pledge that when we disagree, we will do so respectfully, without falsely impugning the other’s motives, attacking the other’s character, or questioning the other’s faith, and recognizing in humility that in our limited, human opinions, “we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror” (1 Corinthians 13:12). We will therefore “be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).
- 4) We will ever be mindful of the language we use in expressing our disagreements, being neither arrogant nor boastful in our beliefs: “Before destruction one’s heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor” (Proverbs 18:12).
- 5) We recognize that we cannot function together as citizens of the same community, whether local or national, unless we are mindful of how we treat each other in pursuit of the common good in the common life we share together. Each of us must therefore “put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body” (Ephesians 4:25).
- 6) We commit to pray for our political leaders—those with whom we may agree, as well as those with whom we may disagree. “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made ... for kings and all who are in high positions” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- 7) We believe that it is more difficult to hate others, even our adversaries and our enemies, when we are praying for them. We commit to pray for each other, those with whom we agree and those with whom we may disagree, so that together we may strive to be faithful witnesses to our Lord, who prayed “that they may be one” (John 17:22).

We pledge to God and to each other that we will lead by example in a country where civil discourse seems to have broken down. We will work to model a better way in how we treat each other in our many faith communities, even across religious and political lines. We will strive to create in our congregations safe and sacred spaces for common prayer and community discussion as we come together to seek God’s will for our nation and our world.

(written by Rev. Geoffrey Black, former General Minister of the United Church of Christ)

* 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

On Faith Alone

arr. Fettke

A Word Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...

A "Subtle" Prophetic Word for Justice

Isaiah 10:1-2 Doom to those who pronounce wicked decrees, and keep writing harmful laws to deprive the needy of their rights and to rob the poor among my people of justice; to make widows their loot; to steal from orphans!

Three Things That Hold the Blossom Back

Matthew 13:1-7 [Jesus] said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed.

(#1 Pecked to Death by Birds) As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it.

(#2 No Root) Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots.

(#3 Wealth and Worry) Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them.

Hope Choked Out in Worry and Wealth

Matthew 13:22 As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit.

The False Appeal of Wealth

Luke 12:13-21 Someone from the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

Jesus said to him, "Man, who appointed me as judge or referee between you and your brother?" Then Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Guard yourself against all kinds of greed. After all, one's life isn't determined by one's possessions, even when someone is very wealthy."

Then he told them a parable: "A certain rich man's land produced a bountiful crop. He said to himself, What will I do? I have no place to store my harvest! Then he thought, Here's what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. That's where I'll store all my grain and goods. I'll say to myself, You have stored up plenty of goods, enough for several years. Take it easy! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.

But God said to him, 'Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?' This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren't rich toward God."

A Basic Truth for Living that Needs to Be Proclaimed

Philippians 2:3-5 Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus.

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn #576

For the Healing of the Nations

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

“Together We Can Blossom” Pledge Campaign Message -Stephanie Graff
(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

LORD, help save us from the temptation of the idolatry of greed. Before we consider building “larger barns,” help us reflect on how our resources the Earth affords might be justly shared. Thank you for the abundant opportunities to share. 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 #594 vs 1 & 2 *How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies***

* **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 *Kirken den er et gammelt Hus***

-Held

Liturgist:	Julie Burik
Videographer:	Geoff Robinson
Worship Graphics Operator:	Hayden Ferguson
Children's Conversation:	Bob Starcke
Hospitality Desk:	Elizabeth Uppman
Head Usher:	Doug Welch
Ushers:	Leonore & Ed Rowe, Mary Pelton, Bill Yohn

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, November 13 - Worship

Monday, November 14 - Read Genesis 31:43-32:21 Jacob Heads Home

Tuesday, November 15 - Read Matthew 10:16-25 Coming Persecutions

Wednesday, November 16 - Matthew 10:26-42 Whom and What to Fear

Thursday, November 17 - Bible Study

Friday, November 18- No Readings

Saturday, November 19 - Read Genesis 33:1-20 - Jacob's Cowardly Reunion



The Sunday Crier

November 13, 2016

Last Chance for Holiday Bazaar

Stop by after second service to check out all the goodies at the Holiday Bazaar. And pick up some wild rice soup to heat and eat later. Do some good for yourself and for others -- 10% of proceeds goes to missions, but 100% of proceeds for the plastic rugs, dish cloths, silent auction, and soup to go will benefit missions. Be sure to stop by.



Thanksgiving Dinner Next Sunday

Join your Colonial family for Thanksgiving dinner Sunday, November 20, at 11:15 a.m. in the Social Hall. The Board of Parish Life will provide the traditional elements of the meal: delicious turkey, dressing, potatoes, rolls and beverages. We need you to bring a special dish that will add variety and spark to the meal. Last names starting with A-G salads, H-M dessert and N-Z hot side dishes. There will be a freewill offering to cover additional expenses.

Share Thanksgiving with Muslim Turkish American Family

Share your Thanksgiving dinner and customs with a Muslim Turkish American Family. Invite them to join you after worship on Sunday, Nov. 20 for Colonial's Thanksgiving dinner and/or invite them to be a part of the celebration at your home on Thursday, Nov. 24. Contact a member of the Justice and Witness Committee to get the name and number of a family from the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest. Committee members: Bruce Edwards (678-662-0956), Mariam Fleming (913-648-5848), and Diane Kuhn, Jayne Quimby, Kathi Cook, Carol Scott, Carrie Roberts.

Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate

The Justice and Witness Committee will be offering Fair Trade chocolate bars and ground coffee for purchase today in the narthex following the 10:15 service.

*Altar
Flowers*

Thanks to Missy Flachsbarth and Hayden Huggins of the Flower Committee for arranging the beautiful Thanksgiving altar.

HIGHLIGHTS

ACE Classes Christianity 101

On the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. between our worship services we are going to explore the basics of Christian faith. Pastor Aaron will lead the classes, which are about 1/2 hour long in the Cambridge Room. Nov. 13 – Following Jesus' Way

Care Packages for College Students

Our youth are planning to send care packages to the college kids to help them study for finals. If you have snacks, leftover Halloween candy or other small items, please drop them by the youth room on the first floor. They plan to assemble the packages on Sun., Nov. 27.

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 Dec. 4, 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.

Christmas Scarves and Hats

We distributed 84 sets of scarves and hats on Sunday, November 6, to be given away at the Johnson County Christmas Bureau. Please bring the finished sets back to the church by Sunday, November 20. You can put them in the boxes in the narthex. There will be a sheet on the box for you to check off your name as you return your sets. Thank you! Did you forget your direction sheet? It's on the website.

Unused Cosmetics Needed

If you have unused cosmetics, sample sizes or gifts with purchase that you haven't opened, please place them in the box on the bottom shelf in the library. We need them for the Cross-Lines Christmas Store and for Molly's Table. Thank you!

Sermon Series

There is incredible potential in every person's life. Jesus had a knack for seeing and developing this potential. He pulled together a motley crew and nurtured them into a movement that changed the world. We're going to look at how this happened...kept on happening...and will continue to happen. We're going to turn to Jesus' lessons and warnings as we blossom together.

Bright Light Friday

Jim Cosgrove is partnering with Artists Helping the Homeless for a free concert on Friday, November 25, at 10:30 a.m. in Truman Auditorium at the Plaza branch of the

Kansas City, MO Library (4801 Main, Kansas City, MO). Skip the craziness of Black Friday shopping and make it a “Bright Light Friday.” Bring your family and friends to the FREE Jim “Mr. Stinky Feet” Cosgrove concert. On the day of the concert, they’ll be collecting winter clothing for Artists Helping the Homeless. They need socks, gloves, scarves, hats and coats. All sizes will be accepted, with adult large and XL items needed most.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Alden Guild**, Thursday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. Salad supper at Glenna Loomis’ home.
 - **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.
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THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY, November 13

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.—Christianity 101, Cambridge Room.

10:15 a.m.—Worship.

10:30 a.m.—Sunday School.

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.—Holiday Bazaar, Social Hall.

TUESDAY, November 15

9:30 a.m.—Book Group, Heritage Room.

7:00 p.m.—Board of Property Management, Oberlin Room.

WEDNESDAY, November 16

9:30 a.m.—Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein Brothers - Prairie Village Shops

9:00 a.m.—Colonial Friends, Truman Library.

7:00 p.m.—Colonial Choir, Choir Room.

THURSDAY, November 17

10:00 a.m.—Bible Study, Cambridge Room.

10:00 a.m.—Rummage Sale Meeting, Heritage Room.

6:30 p.m.—AA, Oberlin Room.

FRIDAY, November 18

8:30 a.m.—Quiltmakers, 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@colonialucc.org)

Connecting Minister: Rev. Lisa Tierney (lisa.tierney@colonialucc.org)

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

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Bell Choir Director: Hayden Ferguson

Organist: Dr. Joseph Kern

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