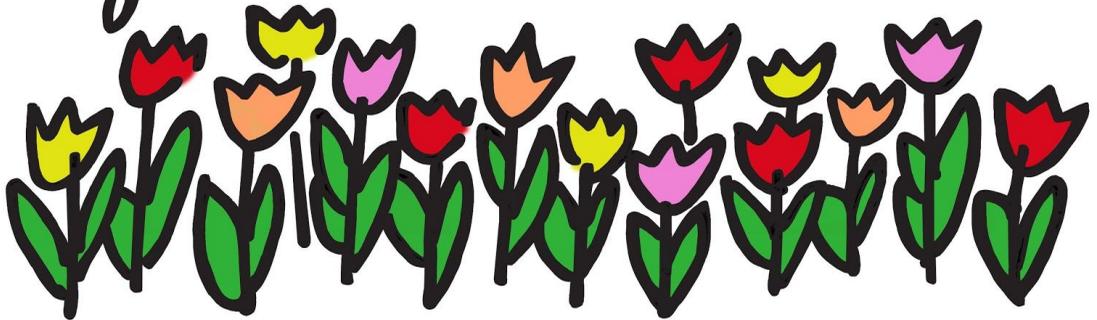


Together we can blossom!



Shared joy is increased, shared pain is lessened.
-Spider Robinson



Colonial Church
in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

November 20, 2016
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“Blossom Time” 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

Den store hvide Flok

-Ferguson

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 #422 *Come, O Thankful People, Come***

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God, you know our comfort-seeking weakness. We ignore the stranger and the alien in need among us as if they were no concern of ours. We resist anything which threatens our privileges. We do only enough good to keep us from feeling guilty. We give sparingly of our time and money, instead of overflowing with thanksgiving sharing. Remind us today that we are your people - the we must be your hands and feet in the world. Because there is more than enough love, joy, and hope to share.

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

He Comes to Us

-Jane Marshall

A Word Proclaimed

-Jim Cosgrove

Matthew 18:1-5 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, and said, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Matthew 6:25-27 & 34 [Jesus said] "Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?"

"Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself."

Romans 12:4-8 We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us.

If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith.

If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving.

If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching.

If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging.

The one giving should do it with no strings attached.

The leader should lead with passion.

The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn #576

Take My Gifts

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Now Thank We All Our God* -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

God of steadfast love, receive this offering as our thanks for the love you share. We hereby enlist ourselves to work towards your willing being done on Earth. May this church community become more and more a source of hope. 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.

Bringing Our Pledges to Support God's Work through Colonial Church

(As we sing our Consecration Hymn, come forward to the basket in the front of the sanctuary and place your pledge card in the basket. If you have made your pledge online or already sent it in – no worries! There are cards in each of the pews for you to bring forward.)

Consecration Hymn #420 *We Praise You, O God*

Blessing of the Pledges

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving, these cards represent our sweat. They represent our lives. They represent our dreams.

The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place.

May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us. May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with possibilities.

May we hold this image in our hearts and minds so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of this offering, it is us on the table, living sacrifices to you. Amen.

(written by Rev. Greg Rickel)

We Depart to Serve

* **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**

Lobe den Herren

-Micheelsen

Liturgist:

Brook Carson

Videographer:

Geoff Robinson

Worship Graphics Operator:

Hayden Ferguson

Children's Conversation:

Bekki Walsh

Hospitality Desk:

Bekki Walsh

Head Usher:

Bill Yohn

Ushers:

Randy and Sue Freeman, Loren Griffith,
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 20 - Worship

Monday, November 21 - Read Genesis 33:1-20 - Jacob's Cowardly Reunion

Tuesday, November 22 - Read Matthew 10:16-25 - Coming Persecutions

Wednesday, November 23 - Matthew 10:26-42 - Whom and What to Fear

Thursday, November 24 - No Bible Study - Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 25 - No Readings

Saturday, November 26 - Read Genesis 34:1-31 - The Rape of Dinah



The Sunday Crier

November 20, 2016

Thanksgiving Dinner Today

Join your Colonial family for Thanksgiving dinner today 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. Freewill offering to cover additional expenses.

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, 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.

Choir Christmas Concert and Soup Supper

Sunday, December 11, 5:00 p.m. Save the date for the Colonial Choir's annual Christmas concert followed by a soup supper. You don't want to miss this!

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 elizabethuppmann@kc.surewest.net.

Save the Date — Advent Festival on December 4

Join us on Sunday, December 4, from 3:30-7:00 p.m. for our annual Advent kickoff. Children's Pageant 3:30-4:00 p.m., crafts 4:00-5:30 (\$5/person or max of \$20/family), Chili/Soup Cook Off and Meal. Watch for more information

*Altar
Flowers*

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Advent Sermon Series: A Season of Peace

Christmas brings the proclamation of the coming of the “Prince of Peace.” But, it’s not that simple. It’s not magic. Jesus knew this well when he said, “If only you knew on this of all days the things that lead to peace. But now they are hidden from your eyes.” (Luke 19:42). This year, we are going to consider “the things that lead to peace” and perhaps even see God’s true hope for “Peace on Earth.”

The Violence of Hoarding – November 27

False Peace – December 4

Remembering Newtown – December 11

Peace on Earth – Christmas Eve December 24

Colonial's Sunday Night Movie, November 27

We are lightening it up this month by viewing the comedy-drama "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Bill Nighy. A group of pensioners are lured by ads for a beautiful retirement resort in Jaipur, India, only to find it to be run down and managed by an inexperienced, yet idealistic, young man (Dev Patel.). Please join us at 5:30 for popcorn and soft drinks. You are welcome to bring a snack to share. A discussion led by Rachel Ruebner will follow.

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.

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 festival treats.

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!

Bright Light Friday

Friday, Nov. 25, 10:30 a.m. Jim Cosgrove is again presenting a Bright Light Friday Family Concert at the Plaza Library's Truman Auditorium (4801 Main St, Kansas City, MO). Skip the craziness of Black Friday shopping and bring the whole family to celebrate Bright Light Friday! The event is free and open to all ages. Please bring winter clothing items (socks, hats, gloves, coats, scarves) for Artists Helping The Homeless.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Alden Guild**, Thursday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. Salad supper at Glenna Loomis' home.
- **Coffee and Breakfast**, Monday, December 4, 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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY, November 20

8:30 a.m.—Worship.

9:00 a.m.—Bell Choir, Pilgrim Room.

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

9:15 a.m.—Board of Outreach, Oberlin Room.

10:15 a.m.—Worship.

10:30 a.m.—Sunday School.

11:15 a.m.—Thanksgiving Dinner, Social Hall.

MONDAY, November 21

6:00 p.m.—Council, Heritage Room.

TUESDAY, November 22

9:30 a.m.—Book Group, Heritage Room.

WEDNESDAY, November 23

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

THURSDAY, November 24

Thanksgiving Day — Office Closed.

FRIDAY, November 25

Office Closed

SUNDAY, November 27

8:30 a.m.—Worship.

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

10:00 a.m.—Colonial Tween Squad, CTS Room.

10:15 a.m.—Worship.

10:30 a.m.—Sunday School.

11:15 a.m.—Coffee & Conversation, Heritage Room.

5:30 p.m.—Movie Night, Heritage Room.

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)

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)

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

Building Maintenance: Mike McGill (mike.mcgill@colonialucc.org)