



**WHY DID GOD
ASK ABRAHAM TO
SACRIFICE ISAAC?**



Colonial Church
in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

September 11, 2016
8:30 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“Believe it....Or Not” Sunday Worship Service**

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir

-Scheidt

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!

* Hymn #410

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

* Unison Prayer

Gracious God, you know that human beings like us struggle with many things. We wonder how much of a role we play in the world and whether what we do makes a difference. We wonder if we listen enough—to you or to those around us. We even wonder if you speak to us and how that might happen. Help us to be more open to signs that you offer us so that we might better know how to show your love and compassion to others. Lead us, guide us, help us. Amen.

- * **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.)

We Hear a Word from God

A Word Proclaimed

-Rev. Janet Weiblen

Genesis 22:1-14 God **tested** Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I'm here."

God said, "Take your son, **your only son** whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you."

Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him. On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together.

Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father?"

Abraham said, "I'm here, my son."

Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?"

Abraham said, "The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son." The two of them walked on together. They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. But the LORD's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, "Abraham? Abraham?"

Abraham said, "I'm here."

The messenger said, "Don't stretch out your hand against the young man, and don't do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn't hold back your son, your only son, from me." Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son.

Abraham named that place "the LORD sees." That is the reason people today say, "On this mountain the LORD is seen."

Mark 7:24-30 Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter.

He responded, "The children have to be fed first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

But she answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

"Good answer!" he said. "Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter."

When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Express your thoughts via social media at #ColonialUCC

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Hail to Thee, Blessed Jesus

-Dupre

* 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

We are grateful, awesome God, for the continual mercies you shower upon us. Even when we fail to hear your voice, you forgive us and help us to listen more clearly. With these gifts, help us to share your truth with others—a Truth that is always a word 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 #411 *Praise the Source of Faith and Learning*** (Use *Hyfrydol* tune.)

* **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.

* **Benediction and Postlude** *Hail to Thee, Blessed Jesus*

-Dupre

Guest Minister:

Rev. Janet Weiblen

Hospitality Table:

Elizabeth Uppman

Worship Graphics Operator:

Kevin Cable

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.

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.

This week's readings:

Sunday, September 11 - Worship

Monday, September 12 - Genesis 25 Abraham Remarries and Dies;
Ishmael's Descendants

Tuesday, September 13 - Matthew 9:1-26 The Call of Matthew, The Question
about Fasting, and the Healing of Two Women

Wednesday, September 14 - Read Genesis 26-27 Abraham's Descendants: The
Next Generation

Thursday, September 15 - Bible Study

Friday, September 16 - No Readings

Saturday, September 17 - Matthew 9:27-38 Healings and Harvest

Sunday, September 11
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Timothy 1:12-17

God Only Wise

Our God is so big and unimaginable it's hard to believe that we can feel so forgiven. Hard for us to comprehend that the same God who spins black holes and makes stars can also show such mercy to individuals so that a life is transformed and love is made visible. We are in the business of changing lives and transforming communities. In the United Church of Christ that's what we call mission. We believe that the church is called to change the world by changing individuals, by changing unjust systems and by being an example of the power of Jesus Christ to shine the light of love on the world.

Paul the Apostle believed that about his own life and the power of his own transformation to change the lives of others. The letter to Timothy speaks of that theme in Paul's message. Throughout the history of the church people have tried to write of the mystery of God and the power of Christ to transform. No hymn is probably better known on that theme than "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise."

Written by Walter C. Smith, a Scottish pastor in the nineteenth century, it still resonates with congregations across denominational lines. The lyrics were inspired by today's scripture passage. These words, first penned among early Christians and an inspiration to a poet/pastor centuries later, still resound today in churches across the world. Sing then, of our great God who is both mystery and tangible hope, who made the moon and also saves the sinner. The transforming God who informs our mission.

O, Immortal Invisible God, remind us of the power of this Gospel we share. Stir in us its message of hope and change for a world that resists its message of transforming power. May our churches be a light for all people who long for the unbounded love offered in Jesus the Christ. Amen.



The Sunday Crier

September 11, 2016

Save the Date for Gathering Sunday

Sunday, September 18, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Colonial. Come and join the fun and see all of the opportunities at Colonial Church. Food, games, bounce house, prizes. A goodwill offering will be accepted to offset the cost of the bounce house and food or you can donate online by going to the church website (<http://www.colonialucc.org/>) and selecting Give Online from the menu. On the giving form, under "Give to..." select Parish Life - Gathering Sunday. Reservations not required. Please bring a side dish by last name: A-F dessert, G-N sides, O-Z salads.

Colonial Women Luncheon and Program

Please join Colonial Women for a luncheon and program on Wednesday, September 14, at noon in the Social Hall. The program will be presented by Poppy Zurcher on her Journey to Greece. Sign up in the narthex.

Colonial Dinner Club Groups Now Forming For Fall

Colonial Dinner Club is a great way to get to know people in the church. Small groups of 7-8 meet in individual homes throughout the year for dinner. The groups meet once every two months for a total of 4 times during the year Oct.-Nov., Dec.-Jan, Feb.- March, April-May. The host provides the main dish, and the others bring side dishes. Meals can be as casual as burgers on the grill or as elaborate as you wish. The main purpose is to have fun and get to know each other better. The rotation schedule means that you only host once per year. Please contact Kathi Cook for more information:

jimandkathicook@gmail.com or 913-236-8292. Singles are encouraged to join...or if you prefer, we can find another person to co-host with you!

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*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are provided by MARYLEE AND RUSS BATTAGLIA in celebration of their 5th anniversary.

HIGHLIGHTS

Colonial Friends to Ride the Streetcar

Colonial Friends will be taking the streetcar to lunch on Wednesday, September 21. Meet at Colonial at 10:45 a.m. and leave at 11:00 for Union Station. If you are driving directly there, be at the Union Station information booth by 11:30 a.m. The group will take the streetcar to the Power & Light District for lunch at The Bristol. Reservation is for 12:15 p.m. RSVP to Bill Sanderson at bills043@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

Writers Group

Writers Group will meet on Sept. 14 at 9:30 in the Heritage Room. Please join us!

Important Rummage Sale Information

The Colonial Rummage Sale is rapidly approaching (Oct. 18-21) so get your donations ready. Drop-off dates are Thursday, Oct. 13–Sunday, Oct. 16. Start collecting your items and remember hangers—we find that clothing is much more profitable if it is clean, wrinkle-free and on hangers. In addition to items, we need your help - in person and with your dollars. **Monetary Donations**—We are also accepting donations to help defray the cost of food for volunteers, advertising and truck rental. Any amount is accepted. Mark your check with “rummage sale” in the memo. Pick up a flyer in the narthex.

Volunteers—Sign up to help online at <http://tinyurl.com/colonial-rummage16>.

Come to Measure and Cut!

Thursday, September 29, Mayflower Guild will meet in the Social Hall to measure and cut hat and scarf sets for the Johnson County Christmas Bureau. We will be measuring, cutting, and chatting from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Come when you can, leave when you must. Bring a pair of scissors. A yardstick or T square would be helpful, but not necessary. And eating? Bring a sack lunch or go across the street for a salad at Hen House. There will be cookies and coffee for all. Please email or call Marilyn Uppman (gmuppmann@aol.com, 913-722-1070) to make a reservation, or sign up at Gathering Sunday.

6th Annual Holiday Bazaar Is Coming

Can you believe Colonial's 6th Annual Holiday Bazaar is coming soon? Nov. 12 and 13 in the Social Hall. We need volunteers for: planning, advertising, placing of signs and table set-up. This event opens our doors to the community by offering gift ideas, warm soup and a sweet treat! Plus 10% of all sales go to the Board of Outreach. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time. Please contact Pauline in the office, Kim Mann (kim@mannmadedesign.com) or Lisarae Turnbull (lisaraephoto@me.com).

New Directory

The 2016-17 Colonial Church directory will be prepared from the information in InFellowship, our database. Please register and update your information at <http://tinyurl.com/database-colonial>. Under privacy settings, you will need to give permission to be included in the directory. Or you can call the church office.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, September 13, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Village.
 - **Colonial Women Luncheon.** Wednesday, September 14, 12:00 p.m., Social Hall.
 - **Book Group.** Friday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Stephanie Graff. All are welcome to join the group. We will be discussing *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks.
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THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY, September 11

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.—Lemonade on the Lawn.

11:30 a.m.—Council/Administrative Board, Social Hall

TUESDAY, September 13

9:30 a.m.—Book Group, Heritage Room.

5:30 p.m.—Colonial Women Blue Moose Tuesday, Prairie Village Shops.

WEDNESDAY, September 14

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

9:30 a.m.—Writers Group, Heritage Room.

12:00 p.m.—Colonial Women Luncheon and Program, Social Hall.

7:00 p.m.—Colonial Choir, Choir Room.

THURSDAY, September 15

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

FRIDAY, September 16

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)

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)