



Who Was the Greatest used with permission by Art4TheGlyOfGod by Sharon.

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.

-Mark Twain



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

August 26, 2018
10:15 a.m.

The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“What Really Matters” Sunday Worship Service
in the series *The Messed Up Pursuit of Happiness*

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Italian Hymn

Proulx

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign and pass the pew pads. Prayer request cards are available for prayers you would like to bring to the clergy and/or congregation. Cards may be placed in the offering plate later in the service.

A Moment to Lay Our Burdens Down

*** Opening Hymn #23** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Merciful God, your creatures cry and creation groans, but we turn away.

People: **We surround ourselves with noise.**

Leader: We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility:

People: **We are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.**

Leader: Life-giving God, wash us clean.

People: **Restore our imaginations and our hearts.**

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Sisters and brothers, hear the good news. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God says unequivocally, irrevocably: you are God's own. You are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

* Sung Response

Gloria #759 adapted

Glorify 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

Please take a moment to 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 in worship or to participate in our Sunday School program. As the children gather and disperse, the congregation sings together:

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (Repeat 3 times.)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

We Hear a Word from God

A Word Proclaimed

Pastor Aaron Roberts

Is There a Point to Life? — Ecclesiastes 2:11-17

When I surveyed all that my hands had done, and what I had worked so hard to achieve, I realized that it was pointless—a chasing after the wind. Nothing is to be gained under the sun.

My reflections then turned to wisdom, madness, and folly. What can the king's heir do but what has already been done? I saw that wisdom is more beneficial than folly, as light is more beneficial than darkness.

The wise have eyes in their head,
but fools walk around in darkness.

But I also realized that the same fate happens to both of them. So I thought to myself, What happens to the fool will also happen to me. So why have I been so very wise? I said to myself, This too is pointless. There is no eternal memory of the wise any more than the foolish, because everyone is forgotten before long. How can the wise die just like the fool? So I hated life, because the things that happen under the sun were troublesome to me. Definitely, everything is pointless—just wind chasing.

Values Beyond Immortality Projects — John 6:27

[Jesus said,] “Don’t work for the food that doesn’t last but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Human One will give you.”

Two Parables about God’s Kingdom of Heaven — Matthew 13:44-45

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field.”

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.”

Look on the Bright Side of Death — 2 Corinthians 4:10-11

We have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn’t come from us. We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren’t crushed. We are confused, but we aren’t depressed. We are harassed, but we aren’t abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren’t knocked out.

We always carry Jesus’ death around in our bodies so that Jesus’ life can also be seen in our bodies. We who are alive are always being handed over to death for Jesus’ sake so that Jesus’ life can also be seen in our bodies that are dying.

Question? Comment? Express your thoughts with #ColonialUCC. 

Our Lord's Prayer

“Our Father” is the traditional way this prayer begins. You are invited to use the name for God that you find most meaningful which may include Father, Mother, Creator, God, etc. The diversity of 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 #476** “My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

* **Renewing Our Covenant**

You are invited to turn towards the center aisle and bless one another with the promise of the Colonial 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 till we meet again.
O God be with you, God be with you, God be with you till we meet again.*

* **Benediction and Postlude** *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* J.C. Bach

Worship Leaders

Liturgist:	Julie Burik
Worship Graphics Operator:	Sally Huggins
Children's Conversation:	Camille Breckenridge
Hospitality Table:	Bill Sanderson
Head Usher:	Linda Moses
Ushers:	Linda Moses, Stacy Kern, Marion Taylor, Bill Sanderson
Fellowship Host:	Jayne Quimby

At Home with God: A UCC Mission Moment

Psalm 84

The Psalmist cries: *My heart and my flesh sing for joy.*

Song and singing, music and hymns are so much a part of our Christian legacy and worship life that we probably could not imagine a worship service without some sort of music, be it chanting or humming, acapella or accompanied. Much of the responsibility for worship music goes to our music directors who serve our churches, mostly part time. Their responsibilities might include a three-person cherub choir that sings hands clasped in soft beautiful lisps, or an intergenerational bell choir, or a 30 plus part singing choir. The sizes of our choirs and the music they sing is as varied as the size and ethos of our churches. Our worship styles include praise bands, folk music, Celtic fiddlers, classical string quartets, jazz trios and the ubiquitous organs. From Van Morrison to Buxtehude or Bach, to Leonard Cohen and St. Ann's Reel we are transported in worship by the sounds our music directors work hard to produce with whatever musical resources they have.

Did you know that there is a United Church of Christ Musicians organization? (uccma.wildapricot.org). They are open to all musicians serving UCC churches. They provide resources such as: hiring musician protocols, a place to advertise for a music director, gatherings for support and workshops on new and innovative ways to advance music in worship, and most of all, they provide support in a collegial and disciplined setting about what it takes to lead a church's music program. They offer members a newsletter, a journal and lots of other resources. If your church musician is not a member you might consider advocating for the church to pay the membership fee and help fund raise so they can attend one of the UCC Musicians' national gatherings.

Martin Luther, the great reformer and author of many of hymns said:

Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

And, PS, if your church is looking for more worship and the arts material you can find a great page of suggestions by going to ucc.org and searching for liturgical arts.



The Sunday Crier

August 26, 2018

Gathering Sunday Potluck Lunch Celebrating Art Foster's Ministry – September 16. Please join us for food and fellowship following the 10:15 service on Sunday, September 16. Chicken will be provided; **please bring a side or dessert to share.** After the lunch we will have a 1:00 p.m. worship service in the sanctuary to honor Art Foster's calling to ordained ministry in 1948.

August Molly's Table Dinner. We have a fun Mom's Night Out planned for the women of Sheffield Place on Thursday, August 30 at 5:00 p.m. We'll serve a home-cooked meal, followed by an evening of jewelry making. Please consider being part of this special event by volunteering your time, or by donating some of the menu items. To sign up to donate parts of the meal or to help that night, go to <https://tinyurl.com/molly-august> All food donations must be delivered to the Heritage Room by 5:00 p.m. Please store perishable items in the refrigerator. Questions? Call or email Jeni Cosgrove (913-219-4815; jeni@jimcosgrove.com).

Help Needed for our Meals for the Homeless! We've had a lull in volunteers to help with the meal we serve the fourth Sunday of each month to the homeless. We need volunteers to bake cookies and to come to the church the afternoon of the meal to prepare the food.

- A family or group of friends can take a Sunday.
- It takes 1-2 hours starting at 2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall
- Skill requirements range from peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and cutting tomatoes/lettuce/onions (goggles optional) to fixing taco meat and beans and rice.

The next opportunity is September 23. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/colonial-ahh18> Meals are cooked at Colonial and served by the JC Nichols Fountain on the Plaza, 4:30-6:00 p.m. You can also sign up to serve. This worthwhile outreach of Colonial needs everyone to help make it a success!

*Altar
Flowers*

The flowers on the altar are given by JoAnn and Jerry Dickey in memory of their parents.

Call for Fabric Artists. Would you be interested in working on an art project for an upcoming worship theme at Colonial? I'm looking for a small team of creative folks to work on a fabric banner. If you are interested, please contact me at nikki.woolsey@colonialucc.org.

Justice & Witness Survey. Colonial Church Justice & Witness Committee is seeking your thoughts regarding key issues of concern that challenge us as Christians today. We would like to know topics you personally consider most troubling and would like more information. We will seek resources that lead to greater understanding and opportunities for our constructive actions. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/col-justice-witness-survey>
Note that if you previously completed the survey, your answers may not have been recorded because of a glitch in the link. Please complete it again.

Curious about LGBT+ Issues or Inclusion? We are called upon to be inclusive and affirming of those who differ from us, especially those that may be invisible or marginalized by society. But it can be difficult to work on affirming something when you have trouble grasping it, or knowing how to think about it, in the first place. If you would like to understand more about the issues facing lesbian/gay/bisexual/ transgender individuals and other gender/sexual minorities, or would like to discuss ways of thinking about inclusion more generally, Peter Bayless is willing to help guide you on the journey. Peter is an adjunct professor at UMKC and a member of the “Transgender Youth in Crisis” task force of the Colonial Board of Outreach. He is available to any Colonial groups that would like him to come speak to them or to individuals who might need somebody to talk to on this subject. He can be reached through email at peter.bayless@gmail.com.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Book Group.** Friday, August 31, 7:00 p.m., Stephanie Graff’s home. We will be discussing *Radium Girls* by Kate Moore.
- **Breakfast and Coffee.** Monday, September 3, 9:30 a.m. at Big Biscuit. (Yes, we know it’s Labor Day.)
- **Alden Guild.** Thursday, September 6, 6:00 p.m., Zarda’s.
- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, September 11, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Village.

Bible Study – Amos and Hosea. In our divided times, Amos’ and Hosea’s message is very relevant. We need to hear about God’s tough love and amazing grace for a people who have often broken God’s heart. On Thursdays at noon, you can come to Colonial Church, attend online at <https://zoom.us/j/341633262> or dial-in to 646-558-8656 with Meeting ID 341 633 262. To receive the weekly study guide materials, contact Pastor Aaron at aaron.roberts@colonialucc.org.

Feed the Hungry Donations. Thanks to all who make a habit of bringing a contribution of food for the red wagon in the narthex. Donations are delivered to four local food pantries – Village Food Pantry, Catholic Charities, Cross-Lines Community Services, and Shawnee Community Services. The wagon also swells the first week of the month when Temple Sinai members add their contributions. You can also write a check for the collection plate marked “Food Pantry” on the memo line. You do make a difference.

The Week Ahead

TODAY, August 26

8:30 am Worship
 9:15 That Was the Week That Was, Library
 9:15 Youth Sunday School, Youth Room
 10:15 Worship
 10:15 Colonial Tween Squad, Salem Room
 10:30 Sunday School
 11:15 Fellowship, Heritage Room
 11:30 Board of Christian Education, Oberlin Room
 2:00 pm AHH Cooking, Social Hall

MONDAY, August 27

9:30 am Colonial Women Board, Oberlin Room

TUESDAY, August 28

9:30 am Book Group, Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY, August 29

9:30 am Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein Brothers, Prairie Village Shops
 7:00 pm Colonial Choir, Choir Room

THURSDAY, August 30

12:00 pm Bible Study
 5:00 pm Molly’s Table, Heritage Room
 6:30 pm AA, Oberlin Room

FRIDAY, August 31

8:30 am Quiltmakers, Social Hall
 7:00 pm Colonial Women Book Group, Stephanie Graff’s home

For the full church calendar, visit our website at colonialucc.org.

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.

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. Bible study at 9:15 a.m. Sunday in the youth room (the Savoy Room) with Sunday School 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 Founders Chapel, September-May.

Watch our Weekly Services and Sermons—You can watch our worship services on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/onlineworship-colonial> and get the sermon and bulletin on our website. Our 10:15 a.m. 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 and Instagram. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/colonialucc>; Instagram: [colonial_ucc](https://www.instagram.com/colonial_ucc)

COLONIAL STAFF

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

Minister of Spiritual Formation: Rev. Nikki Woolsey (nikki.woolsey@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: Heather Winker (heather.winker@colonialucc.org)

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

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