



(Jesus and a Child - anonymous pencil sketch)

For whatever be the knowledge which we are able to obtain of God, either by perception or reflection, we must of necessity believe that He is by many degrees far better than what we perceive Him to be.

-Origen



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

August 27, 2017
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
Stump the Pastor 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

Italian Hymn

-Proulx

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 #44**

Beautiful Jesus

* **A Time of Confession - Question: Did Jesus have a sense of humor?**

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Emmanuel—God with us, how do we perceive you? Were you stoic and serious? Fun and outgoing?

You had compassion for all people, yet you got short and frustrated with some.

You constantly ate meals with people, but were they heavy with meaning or lively with laughter.

How we see you matters. Help us gain a glimpse.

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 Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

Question: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Job's Questions for God

Job 7:17-20 What are human beings, that you exalt them, that you take note of them, visit them each morning, test them every moment? Why not look away from me; let me alone until I swallow my spit? If I sinned, what did I do to you, guardian of people? Why have you made me your target so that I'm a burden to myself?

God's Response to Job Begins...

Job 38:1-7 The LORD answered Job from the whirlwind: Who is this darkening counsel with words lacking knowledge? Prepare yourself like a man; I will interrogate you, and you will respond to me. Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me if you know.

Who set its measurements? Surely you know.

Who stretched a measuring tape on it? On what were its footings sunk; who laid its cornerstone, while the morning stars sang in unison and all the divine beings shouted?

Our God of Resurrecting Grace Goes With You Always...

Romans 8:31-37 So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? God didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all...

It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us. Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, We are being put to death all day long for your sake. We are treated like sheep for slaughter. But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us.

Hymn on bulletin page 7 *Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil* (sing twice)

Question: The King James version of John chapter 1 is beautiful poetry, and it focuses on the word 'Word'. Its use fascinates me, I'd like to hear more about that.

The King James Version of the John Intro to Jesus

John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Knowledge, but Not Wisdom

Luke 12:56-57 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret the present time? And why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn #135 vs 1, 3, and 4 *Adeste Fideles (O Come, All You Faithful)*

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Three Little Birds* -Bob Marley and the Wailers
 (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 -written by Rev. Elsa Cook
**Mother God,
 with praise and thanks,
 vigor and sweat, care and hope,
 we bless these gifts in your love.
 In Christ Jesus, we pray. 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 #471

What a Covenant

* **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**

Wunderbarer König

-Harbach

Liturgist:

Frank Robertson

Videographer:

Geoff Robinson

Worship Graphics Operator:

Hayden Ferguson

Children's Conversation:

Marylee Battaglia

Hospitality Table:

Marilyn Uppman

Head Usher:

Doug Welch

Ushers:

Marylee Battaglia, Mariam Fleming,
Bill Sanderson, Doug Welch

Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than
 hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;
 life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is
 ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is
 ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us.

Text: Desmond Tutu, b.1931, ©, adapt. by John L. Bell, b.1949

Tune: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, Irregular; John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1996, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent



The Sunday Crier

August 27, 2017

Gathering Sunday Picnic – September 10. Please join us for fun, games and good food on September 10 following the 10:15 a.m. service. We will gather at Roe Park (10400 Roe Ave, Overland Park, KS 66207). Chicken will be provided, and sides and desserts will be potluck. Families with last name starting with A through I bring dessert to share, J through Z bring a salad or side dish. A free will offering will be accepted.

Men's Breakfast Group. Chuck Nigro, Chair of the Johnson County Commission on Aging, will be the speaker at the September meeting of the Men's Breakfast Group. Everyone is welcome to the breakfast on Tuesday, September 5, at 8:00 a.m. at Perkins (87th St between I35 and Alt. 69 Hwy). The Commission supports and advocates for needed services for the 107,000 seniors in Johnson County.

Centering Prayer for Summer's End. School starts and life gets busy. Are you looking for some time apart? Centering prayer helps quiet the internal jangling so you can just be. Join us on August 27 and September 3, 10, and 17 in the Preschool room between 9:30 and 10:00. We'll spend a little time checking in and talking about centering prayer, and then we'll pray together. No preparation is necessary; all are welcome. For more information, contact Elizabeth Uppman at elizabethuppmann@kc.surewest.net.

Toilet Paper Collection. We are collecting toilet paper for the Village Food Pantry. Please help by bringing toilet paper to add to the little red wagon that takes food items to the Village Food Pantry each week. Toilet paper cannot be purchased with food stamps and the food pantry can send each family of five or more with only a single roll of paper to last all week. Bulk packaging is great because the food pantry breaks open the packages anyway for distribution.

*Altar
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are given by JERRY AND JOANN DICKEY in loving memory of their parents.

Colonial Writers Group. Sharpen your pencils and plan to join us for Writers Group on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 9:30 a.m. at the church. Veterans and newcomers are always welcome.

Dialogue Institute Invitation to Brunch. Circle Saturday, October 28, to mark our invitation from The Dialogue Institute of the Southwest to a brunch at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 28, at the institute (4215 Shawnee Drive, Kansas City, KS). They have invited Vern Barnett, founder of the Kansas City Interfaith Council, to speak on "The Healing Power of World Religions." All are invited. Do not miss this unique time to hear an interesting speaker, strengthen friendships with those of a different faith and enjoy a delicious meal. RSVP by signing the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or online at <http://tinyurl.com/dialogue-brunch>

Race for the Cure. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® series is the world's largest, most successful fundraising and education event for breast cancer. Marylee Battaglia (16 year breast cancer survivor) is in the narthex today with a table where you can make a donation or fill in a registration for her team in person that she will hand deliver to the Susan G. Komen office. Every amount helps reach a cure.

News Flash: Colonial's 7th Annual Holiday Bazaar is Nov. 11 and 12! Calling all artists, we have a few spots left. If interested call Heather in the office for more information. As always we can use volunteers for the following activities: planning, advertising, placing of signs and table set-up. Plus 10% of all sales go to the Board of Outreach. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time. If interested contact Heather in the office, Kim Mann (kim@mannmadedesign.com) or Lisarae Turnbull (lisaraephoto@me.com).

Colonial Women Activities

- **Coffee.** Monday, September 4, 9:30 a.m., Big Biscuit. Yes, we know it's Labor Day. Come anyway!
- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, September 12, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Village.

Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate. Justice and Witness Committee offers a selection of Fair Trade chocolate bars and ground coffee for purchase in the narthex following the 10:15 service on the second Sunday of each month. The next opportunity will be Sunday, September 10.

Feed the Hungry Donations. Thanks to all who make a habit of bringing a contribution of food for the red wagon in the narthex. Each Sunday the contents are delivered to the Village Church Food Pantry, who distribute items to patrons all over the Kansas City area. You can also write a check for the collection plate marked "Food Pantry" on the memo line. You do make a difference. Be a part!

The Week Ahead

TODAY, August 27

8:30 am—Worship
 9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library
 9:15—Board of Stewardship, Oberlin Room
 9:30—Centering Prayer, Preschool Room
 9:30—Board of Parish Life, Cambridge Room
 10:15—Worship
 10:30—Sunday School
 11:15—Coffee & Fellowship, Heritage Room
 11:30—Council/Administrative Board, Social Hall

MONDAY, August 28

10:00 am—Colonial Women Board, Oberlin Room

TUESDAY, August 29

9:30 am—Book Group, Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY, August 30

9:30 am—Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein Brothers in Prairie Village Shops

THURSDAY, August 31

10:00 am—Bible Study, Pastor's Office
 6:30 pm—AA, Oberlin Room

FRIDAY, September 1

8:30 am—Quiltmakers, Social Hall

SUNDAY, September 3

8:30 am—Worship
 9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library
 9:15—Board of Outreach, Oberlin Room
 9:30—Centering Prayer, Preschool Room
 10:15—Worship
 10:30—Sunday School
 11:15—Coffee & Fellowship, Heritage Room

MONDAY, September 4

Labor Day—Office Closed
 9:30 am—Colonial Women Coffee, Big Biscuit

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.roberts@colonialucc.org)

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

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

Youth Group Leader: Amy Congdon (amy.congdon@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)