



(Camp Fire used with permission by Forest Service, USDA)

A man does not have to be an angel in order to be saint.
-Albert Schweitzer



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

December 23, 2018
10:15 a.m.

The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“Send Me an Angel” Advent Worship Service
in the series *Dawn on Our Darkness*

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Veni, Emmanuel

Peeters

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

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Benjamin and Heather Brasel Family

**People: Silent night, holy night. Wondrous star, lend thy light;
 With the angels let us sing, “Alleluia” to our King.
 Christ, the Savior is born. Christ, the Savior is born.**

One Story of a Silent Night

Leader: The season of waiting is almost over. We light the fourth candle, anticipating the coming light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

God of our future, we open ourselves to hear your call today -- the call to keep hope alive no matter the troubles we face. Help us to never lose hope and to offer hope to all around us-- making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.

People: Fill us with your peace and light, make the world so calm and bright.

* **Hymn 126** “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

* **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 in Music

Mary Did You Know?

Mark Lowry

A Word Proclaimed

Pastor Aaron Roberts

Scary Times – Joel 2:30-31

I will give signs in the heavens and on the Earth—blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood before the great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

Good News from an Angel – Luke 2:10-14

“Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on Earth peace among those whom he favors.”

Inspired Menders and Restorers – Isaiah 58:11-12

The LORD will guide you continually
 and provide for you, even in parched places.
 God will rescue your bones.
 You will be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water that won't run dry.
 They will rebuild ancient ruins on your account;
 the foundations of generations past you will restore.
 You will be called Mender of Broken Walls,
 Restorer of Livable Streets.

Question? Comment? Express your thoughts with #ColonialUCC. 

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn 106 “My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise”

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Our weekly offering includes food items collected in the red wagon to help fill our local food pantries.

Offertory *Christ My Lord, God's Only Begotten Son* Dupre

Doxology: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Hymn 116, Verse 1

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!***

* Blessing the Offering

People: Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth, giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world. Amen.

A Time of Prayer

Prayers of the People

*Believing that each joy and 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 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 125** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

* **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**

Hymn 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**

Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24

O’Neill and Oliva

Worship Leaders

Liturgist:	Diane Kuhn
Camera Operator:	Tim Taylor
Worship Graphics Operator:	Hayden Ferguson
Children’s Conversation:	Camille Breckenridge
Hospitality Table:	Rosalie Henry
Head Usher:	Doug Welch
Ushers:	Marylee Battaglia, Meredith Griffiths
Fellowship Hosts:	Diane Kuhn



Catherine Bowser

In memory of John V. Bowser

Loren Griffith

In memory of Jan Griffith

LaVonne Grossman

In memory of Richard Grossman

Honey Hannah

In memory of Carl Migliazzo

Barrie and Nicholas Herbst

In memory of Larry and Sally Snail, parents and grandparents

Karen and Brad Hodges

In memory of Glen Froelich and Ann Hodges

Huggins, Kern and Ferguson Families

In memory of Ray and Mary Grace Morgan and Gordon and Shirley Huggins

George and Cindy Lafferty

In honor of our families

Anne Mann

In memory of Russell G. Mann

Helen Minter

In memory of Dick Minter, Dan Minter and Nathan Schall

Linda Moses and Family

In loving memory of Thomas Moses, Harold and Dolcie Offer

Dorothy Mulford

In memory of Lynn Mulford, Newton Dilley Jr., Marguerite Patton Dilley and Michael Wellborn Mulford

Marsha Owen

In memory of Moyne Mohs, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother

Jan Parkinson and Family

In memory of Marsha Parkinson

Frank Robertson

In memory of Herbie Nichols, my friend

Robbie Robinson

In memory of my wife, Jo Ellen Robinson

Marty Sample

In memory of Joe Sample

Lynn Sample

In memory of John Marsh

Cora and Hunter Snodgrass

In memory of great-grandparents Rex and Virginia Flentie

Susie Stroud

In memory of my dear husband Tom and our daughter Teresa

Marion Taylor

In honor of Valerie and Hayley Volkmer

Lin Vaughn and Family

In loving memory of John Vaughn

Jane Whiles

In memory of Jim Whiles

Bill and Sharon Yohn

In honor of five wonderful grandsons



The Sunday Crier

December 23, 2018

Christmas Eve Worship

6:00 p.m. Pageant presented by Colonial Youth

8:00 p.m. Communion Worship

The Light Is Surely Coming: The Christmas Fund. Purple offering envelopes are in the pews for the Christmas Fund, the annual UCC offering to help retired clergy and clergy with difficulties. The Christmas Fund supplements the small pensions of some UCC clergy and lay employees and their families, helps retired clergy pay for health insurance, and sometimes keeps the heat on. The Christmas Fund also supports active clergy and lay employees who have medical emergencies or unexpected misfortunes that require more money than they have. This offering contributes more than \$2 million a year in assistance.

Sunday Night Movie – December 30. Please join us December 30 at 5:30 p.m. for “Millions.” This film “is about a pint-sized miracle worker who has close encounters with the saints of yesteryear and possesses an open and generous heart. He believes that God has called him on a special mission. This is the most endearing, charming, creative, and spiritually uplifting movie since Amelie set our hearts swooning. It is about miracles and money and saints and the divine love that will not let us go.” (Spirituality & Practice - 2005 Award Winner) Soda and popcorn will be provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share.

All-Church Game Night. Mark your calendars for an all-church game night next Saturday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. What’s your favorite board game? Do you have a game you’d like to play? All ages will enjoy this evening to learn new games and play old favorites. Child care will be available for infants and toddlers by reservation to heather.winker@colonialucc.org. Bring a snack to share.

*Altar
Flowers*

Thank you to Missy Flachsbarth and Hayden Ferguson for arranging the poinsettias on the altar.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals. The annual Christmas pageant will be presented on Tuesday, December 24 at the 6:00 p.m. worship service. All interested children and youth are invited to participate. We will gather after worship today at 11:15 a.m. for an organizing rehearsal. On the 24th, the youth will gather at 3:30 p.m. to finalize the production. The Sunday School children are invited to join us at 5:15 p.m. for a quick run through. Questions? Contact Nikki Woolsey at nikki.woolsey@colonialucc.org.

Advent Booklet. Advent is the season of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of the Christ child. An Advent booklet written by members of the congregation is available, one to a family. Pick yours up in the narthex.

Year-end Giving Reminder – All 2018 donations must be received by the church by December 31 or, if mailed, postmarked by December 31 in order to be included in 2018 donations.

Men's Breakfast Group. The December breakfast featured Jane Williams, who led an interesting and informative discussion of wills, trusts and other helpful legal documents. The next breakfast will be Tuesday, January 8 (note it's the 2nd Tuesday) at Perkins (on 87th Street between I-35 and 69 Alt) when Bob LeVeau will talk about the East Hill Singers. Our regular first Tuesday is New Year's Day and for various reasons (not the least of which is black-eyed peas are not on the Perkins menu), we have rescheduled our breakfast for January only. Guests are always welcome.

Please Help Complete the Altar Flower Calendar! We only have 2 dates left for you to sign up for 2019 – November 10 and December 29. We want to get this completed! Your cost is \$50 and you may take the flowers following the 10:15 a.m. service or designate them for the Care Committee to take to homebound or hospitalized members. Let the office know if you will take one of these dates.

Help Needed for our Meals for the Homeless! We need volunteers to help with the meal we serve the fourth Sunday of each month to the homeless. We need people to bake cookies and come to the church kitchen the afternoon of the meal to prepare the food for 2019. Sign up to at <https://tinyurl.com/colonial-ahh19>. Meal preparation usually starts around 2:00 p.m., so the meal can be available in Mill Creek Park by the Plaza about 4:00 p.m. By 5:00 p.m, all are usually on our way home. This meal is a way for AHH to stay in touch with homeless in the area and to build trust.

Red Wagon Donations. Thanks to all who make a habit of bringing a contribution of food for the red wagon in the narthex. Contents are delivered to four food pantries in 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, December 23**

8:30 am Worship

9:15 That Was the Week That Was, Library

9:15 Teens Connect, Youth Room

9:30 Colonial Choir, Choir Room

10:15 Worship

10:30 Sunday School

11:15 Fellowship Time, Heritage Room

11:15 Pageant Rehearsal

MONDAY, December 24

6:00 pm Pageant

8:00 Communion Worship

December 25-28

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, December 26

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

SUNDAY, December 30

8:30 am Worship

9:15 That Was the Week That Was, Library

9:15 Teens Connect, Youth Room

10:15 Worship

10:30 Sunday School

11:15 Fellowship Time, Heritage Room

5:30 pm Movie Night, Heritage Room

December 31-January 1

Office Closed

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, call our church office at 913-362-7735.

A fully staffed nursery is available each Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon. 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.

Tween Squad—The Colonial Tween Squad meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 10:15 a.m. in the Salem Room. All students in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades are welcome.

Youth Group—The Colonial Youth Group welcomes 7th through 12th grade students. The group meets each week at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning in the youth room (Savoy) for Teens Connect followed by worship at 10:15 a.m. Fellowship, learning, and service 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

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)