



(Love used with permission of Erin Beardempl)

For it is in giving that we receive.

-Francis of Assisi



Colonial Church

in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

December 24, 2017
8:00 p.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“The Tale of an Eternal Savior” Christmas Eve Worship Service
in our series *Untold Tales Leading to Christmas***

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music
Hymn #125

Antioch

-Ferguson

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn #124

Away in a Manger

Procession of the Christ Candle

Welcome

(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.)

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

Lighting the Advent Candles

-Taylor Family

Luke 2:4-20 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - **I am bringing you good news of great joy**

for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on Earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing to our God a new song;
Sing to our God all the Earth.

**People: Glory to God in the highest heaven,
Peace on Earth to all!**

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God,
Let Creation rejoice, let trees of the forest sing for joy!

**People: Glory to God in the highest heaven,
Peace on Earth to all!**

*** Song of Praise — Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High (#125)**
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*** Sharing God's Welcome** (Greet everyone in the hope that comes with Christ with a "Merry Christmas!")

We Hear a Word from God

A Word Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

An Odd Choice to be Named Messiah

Isaiah 44:1-4 Thus says the Lord to his anointed messiah, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

I will go before you and level the mountains

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,

I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name,

I surname you, though you do not know me.

A New Kind of Messiah Foretold

Baruch 4:21-22 Take courage, my children, cry to God, and God will deliver you from the power and hand of the enemy. For I have put my hope in the Everlasting to save you, and joy has come to me from the Holy One, because of the mercy that will soon come to you from your Everlasting Savior.

The Saving Way of the Messiah Jesus

Matthew 16:24-27 [Jesus taught:] “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”

The Eternal Savior Is Coming

Baruch 4:30 Take courage, O Jerusalem, for the one you named will comfort you.

The Sacrament of Communion

Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: LORD, we greet you this night, because you have been at work in our world throughout time. You created all things and called them good. You claimed your people Israel, freed them from the bondage of Egypt, and journeyed with them through the wilderness to the Promised Land. You sent prophets to call your people back to you. Then in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, Emmanuel, born the King of Angels, your Word in flesh appearing. He was one of us and lived with us, giving up all his glory for our sake to make us whole. You raised him up again to overcome the power of death and live a new life. We wait for the day when we too will share the fullness of life in him and with him.

Consecration of the Bread and Cup

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(As Natasha Olinetchouck sings *I know that my Redeemer Liveth* by Handel, come forward and take a piece of bread; then dip only the bread into the chalice – no fingers please. Return to your seat by the outside row.)"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.

We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.

We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world and we continue to share Christ's light with a world in need. Amen.

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *The Child was Born in Bethlehem* -Dupre

* Doxology *What Child Is This* (#148 verses 3 and 1)

***So bring him incense gold and myrrh; Come humbly to revere him;
The King of kings salvation brings; Let faithful hearts draw near him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds seek and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him praise, the babe, the son of Mary!***

* Blessing the Offering

O God of Hope, God of Peace, God of Joy, God of Love, we pray you bless these gifts, that they might become a blessing to this world you love so very much. May those who receive them know that you are with them, in this holy season and in all their days to come. In the name of the Child of Bethlehem who is the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

We Depart to Serve

* **Lighting Christ's Candle and Sharing Its Light**

(Pastor Aaron will light a candle from the Christ candle. Our ushers will then light the candle of the first worshiper in each pew. In this way we share the light that God has given to each of us.)

* **Hymn #134** ***Silent Night, Holy Night***

* **Benediction**

* **Extinguishing the Candles and Ringing in Christ's Birth**

* **Hymn #132** ***Joy to the World!***

* **Postlude** *Il Est Né* -Hudson



Colonial Church
in Prairie Village

The Christmas Crier

December 24, 2017

Christmas is a sacred season. Like Mary and Joseph, we too are asked to carry God's love and deliver it into our world. Like the shepherds, we too are asked to hear "good news" even in the midst of our daily routines and darkest nights. Like the wise men, we, too, are asked to see signs and seek out God's justice that rules in ways people do not. Here at Colonial Church, we believe every person has a place and a purpose in God's world, no matter how young or how old, no matter your past or your present, no matter where you have been or where you are going. We are a community committed to loving others, serving our neighbors, and walking together in Christian love. Whether you are a member of Colonial, a family member, friend or visitor, may you experience the power and presence of God here in our sanctuary. And, may you take the light and love of Christ out into the night.

Peace and Blessings, Aaron Roberts

Visiting Colonial?

If you are searching for a safe place to explore your faith while learning and discerning how God's ways interface with your own...this is the community for you. If you are interested in finding people who want to put their faith into practice...this is the community for you. If you need to experience God's grace and mercy in ordinary people and places...this is the community for you. If you would like more information about Colonial Church or the UCC, please visit: www.colonialucc.org.

Serve the Homeless. It is exciting to be a part of the work that Kar Woo offers to needy area residents and the next meal will be served on the Plaza on January 28. To help with the preparation, bake cookies to serve or to come to the Plaza to share, sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/AHH-Colonial2018>. Please consider whether you can bake cookies, purchase the food, cook at Colonial the day of or help serve the meal. Meals are cooked at Colonial at 2:00 p.m. and served by the JC Nichols Fountain on the Plaza, from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Liturgist: Frank Robertson

Advent Candlelighters: Tim and Marion Taylor

Worship Graphics Operator: Miles Roberts

Videographer: Geoff Robinson

Head Usher: Bruce Wofford

Ushers: Bill Sanderson, Marion Taylor, Bruce Wofford, Martha Wofford

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](#)

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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)