



(Love used with permission of Erin Beardempl)

**For it is in giving that we receive.**

-Francis of Assisi



www.colonialucc.org  
913-362-7735

December 24, 2017  
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ**  
**“The Tale of an Eternal Savior”**  
**Christmas Eve Sunday Morning Worship Service**  
**in our series *I bhc`X`HU`Yg`@UX]b[`tc`7\ f]gla Ug***

*Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.*

\* Please rise in body or spirit

K Y; U\Yf Ug; cX]6Y`cj YXDYcd`YÆ

**Gathering Music**

*Divinum mysterium*

-Held

**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: It is good.

**People: It is good to be.**

Leader: It is good to be here.

**People: It is good to be here together.**

\* Hymn #135 verses 1,3 & 4      *5 XYghY: ]XY Yg`*  
*fC`7 ca YZ5 ``Mci : UJh Z `L*

**Lighting the Advent Candles**

-Johnston 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 God 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.

**\* Advent Song of Praise – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (#122 vs 1)**

*Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.*

**\* Sharing God's Welcome** (Greet everyone in the hope of peace and friendship.)Æ

**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.Æ*

K Y'<YUFUK cfXZca ; cX

**A Word in Music**

*Jesus is Born, Alleluia*

-Butler

**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.

K YFYgclcbXk ]H ; fUH]h XY UbX'DfUnYfÆ

**\* Hymn #153      K \ c `K ci `X`H ]b\_ `H UhK \ UhK Ug`BYYXYX**

**A Time of Gifts and Offerings**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory                                    *The Son of God is Come*                                    -Dupre  
(Our weekly offering includes food collected in the red wagon to help fill local pantries.)

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

*Gc `Vf]b[ \ ]a `]bWbgY[ c`X`UbX`a nff\ /`7 ca Y\ i a V`m]c `fYj YfY\ ]a /`  
H Y?]b[ `cZ\_]b[ g`gUj Uh]cb `Vf]b[ g/ `@hZU]H Z ` \ YUfhg`XfUk `bYUf ` \ ]a "  
H ]gžh ]g`]g`7 \ f]ghh Y?]b[ žK \ ca `g\ Yd\ YfXg`gYY\_ `UbX`Ub[ Yg`g]b[ /`  
< Ughž\ UghY`lc `Vf]b[ \ ]a `dfU]gYžh Y`VUVYžh Y`gcb`cZA Ufmi*

\* 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.**

**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.Æ**

Æ

## K Y'8YdUfhrc'GYfj Y

- \* Hymn #144 vs 1 & 3 <UF\_ °H Y< YfUX'5 b[ Yg'G]b[
- \* **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 — ; cX'6 Y'K JH 'Mci #809 '**  
**; cX'VY'k JH 'nci ž; cX'VY'k JH 'nci ž; cX'VY'k JH 'nci 'h`'k Ya YYhU[ U]b"**  
**C'; cX'VY'k JH 'nci ž; cX'VY'k JH 'nci ž; cX'VY'k JH 'nci 'h`'k Ya YYhU[ U]b"**
- \* **Benediction and Postlude** *Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12-24* -O'Neill and Oliva

Liturgist:	Jayne Quimby
Advent Candlelighters	Johnston Family
Videographer:	Geoff Robinson
Worship Graphics Operator:	Miles Roberts
Children's Conversation:	Aaron Roberts
Hospitality Table:	Mary Pelton
Head Usher:	Chester Bender
Ushers:	Chester Bender, Loren Griffith, Cindy Lafferty, Howard Lee

United Church of Christ Mission Moment - Christmas Eve 2017  
Luke 1:26-38 - Birthing a Promise

Is nothing impossible? Clearly Christmas time calls forth flagrant impossibility! Virgins conceive, old ladies are pregnant, angels appear and disappear. Not to mention all those characters—shepherds, sheep, choirs of angels stamped into figurines. Though there probably won't be a cute porcelain reproduction of a pregnant Elizabeth under your tree. Where is Elizabeth anyway, whose pregnancy is also described as miraculous, in all our Advent and Christmas storytelling?

Elizabeth is described not only as “old” but also barren. It's in her body that God begins this rhapsody of excitement building to Mary's song. In her is planted the “seed” of the great announcer of the new age—that realm-of-God-guy, the caller forth of hope—John the Baptist. Does she have a role in our annual Christmas pageants? Probably not. Elizabeth is like many older women in our world. She is invisible and an emblem of decline.

When a congregation gets small enough, it is also sometimes described as “aging.” Did you ever think that older people, especially older women, offer more than a few important ingredients to your congregation? They have time. They have the energy. They have skills and are willing to teach them. They have great stories to tell. They knew everybody when they were twelve. Who else always shows up; and who will make sure the lights are on and the tables set? How many of our churches have a female Treasurer who used to be the finance person for the school board? Who are the retired teachers, nurses and doctors, lawyers and business owners sitting in our pews? Old ladies! None of them is likely to have a budding John the Baptist within them, but some of them may tell you quite plainly, if you are lucky, when the rough ways will be made smooth and the high brought low.

Murphys, California is a small town (population around 2000) in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains. It's a place people drive to for the weekend or the summer, full of interesting little towns, old Gold Rush stories and beautiful scenery. It also has a UCC church with a membership of under 200 and about 80 in worship. In a conservative part of the state they are open and affirming, progressive and host an LGBT youth group for the county. Its membership is “older” and active, welcoming to all. They make sure everyone who comes is fed. The town of Murphys has a median age near 60. This past summer they hosted a community potluck and discussion of white privilege. Sometimes aging doesn't mean lifeless. Sometimes it means new life, welcoming the birthday of joy!





# *The Sunday Crier*

December 24, 2017

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## **Christmas Eve Worship Tonight**

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

8:00 p.m. Communion Worship

## **Shepherding the Light: 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.

## **Poinsettia Display**

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

**Be a Host for Coffee and Conversation on Sunday.** Fellowship time after the 10:15 a.m. service provides an opportunity to catch up with one another and welcome visitors. But we need you to host a Sunday. You provide cookies and prepare coffee. We need volunteers to keep this tradition going. This typically requires 15 minutes before end of service for setup and 30 minutes after church for hosting and clean-up. Sign up as Coffee and Conversation Host online at <https://tinyurl.com/worship-2018> or contact Heather in the church office.

## **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!

## Year-end Giving Reminder

All 2017 donations must be received by the church by December 31 or, if mailed, postmarked by December 30 in order to be included in 2017 donations. The new tax bill includes raising the standard deduction for singles to \$12,000 and to \$24,000 for joint returns. For those aged 65 and over, the standard deduction is increased by an extra \$1,600 for singles and \$1,300 (\$2,600, if both are aged 65 and over) for joint returns. With these higher standard deductions, contributions in 2018 may not yield any tax benefit. Prepayment of your 2018 pledge by December 31 may reduce your 2017 income tax liability. Consult your tax advisor if this may help reduce your tax liability for 2017.

## Colonial Women Activities

- **Alden Guild.** Thursday, January 4, 6:00 p.m. Summit Grill, 520 W. 75th St., Kansas City, MO 64114. Everyone welcome. Call Glenna Loomis for reservations.
- **Breakfast and Coffee.** Monday, January 8, 9:30 a.m. at Big Biscuit. Note date change!
- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, January 9, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Village Shops.
- **Book Group.** Friday, January 12, 7:00 p.m., Stephanie Graff's home. We will be discussing "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult.

**Men's Breakfast Group.** Colonial Men will meet on January 2, at 8:00 a.m. at Perkins on 87th between I-35 and 69 Alt. Bob LeVeau will lead the program.

## January Sermon Series: *9H Jm'Zf'HcXUm*

We're going to begin the New Year inspired by ethics from the moral heart of Jesus' teaching. We are facing complex ethical issues ranging from our relationships to health care, and perhaps God's Spirit has more light to share.

Motives Matter – January 7

The Deal about Lies – January 14

Putting Price Tags on Life – January 21

**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.

## **The Week Ahead**

### **TODAY, December 24**

9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library  
 10:15—Worship  
 10:30—Sunday School  
 11:15—Christmas Store Meeting, Oberlin Room  
 2:00 pm—AHH Cooking, Social Hall  
 6:00—Pageant, Sanctuary  
 8:00—Communion Worship, Sanctuary

### **December 25-29**

Office Closed

### **December 31**

8:30 am—Worship  
 9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library  
 10:15—Worship  
 10:30—Sunday School  
 11:15—Coffee & Conversation, Heritage Room

### **MONDAY, January 1**

Office Closed

### **TUESDAY, January 2**

8:00 am—Men's Breakfast Group, Perkins  
 9:30 am—Book Group, Heritage Room

### **WEDNESDAY, January 3**

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

### **THURSDAY, January 4**

12:00 pm—Bible Study  
 3:30 pm—Justice & Witness Committee, Library  
 6:30 pm—AA, Oberlin Room

### **FRIDAY, January 5**

8:30 am—Quiltmakers, Social Hall

*For the full church calendar, visit our website at [colonialucc.org](http://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 online. 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 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 and bulletin 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](http://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

## EQNQPKN'UVCHH'

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

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

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

Youth Group Leader: Amy Congdon ([amy.congdon@colonialucc.org](mailto:amy.congdon@colonialucc.org))

Music Director: Kirk Carson ([kirk.carson@yahoo.com](mailto:kirk.carson@yahoo.com))

Bell Choir Director: Hayden Ferguson

Organist: Dr. Joseph Kern

Church Administrator: Heather Winker ([heather.winker@colonialucc.org](mailto:heather.winker@colonialucc.org))

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

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