



(Used with permission by Erin Beardemphl.)

Let your dreams outgrow the shoes of your expectations.

-Ryunosuke Satoro



Colonial Church
in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

December 2, 2018
10:15 a.m.

The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“When You Don’t Get What You Expect” 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 *Wachet auf, ruft, uns die Stimme* J. S. Bach

Choral Prelude *Call to Advent* Jerome Williams

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

Introduction of the Advent Worship Theme: Calm and Bright

**People: Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright.
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy Infant so tender and mild.
 Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

One Story of a Silent Night

Reader 1: We enter this season of waiting, by lighting this first candle, anticipating the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

Reader 2: Advent God, we open ourselves to hear your call today to become those who not only wait, but also work, for peace in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

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

* **Hymn 122** “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus” Sung to the tune HYFRYDOL

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Those who choose may come forward by the center aisle to receive the communion elements as the choir sings. Please take a piece of bread and then dip only the bread in the chalice. You may return to your seat by the outside aisle.

Communion Anthem *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Douglas Helvering

* Prayer of Thanksgiving through the Sharing of 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

The God For Whom People Once Waited – Isaiah 64:1-9

If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!
Mountains would quake before you like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil.
If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in
your presence.

When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you came down,
mountains quaked before you.

From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god
but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him!

You look after those who gladly do right; they will praise you for your ways.

But you were angry when we sinned; you hid yourself when we did wrong.

We have all become like the unclean; all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag.

All of us wither like a leaf; our sins, like the wind, carry us away.

No one calls on your name; no one bothers to hold on to you, for you have hidden
yourself from us, and have handed us over to our sin.

But now, LORD, you are our father.

We are the clay, and you are our potter.

All of us are the work of your hand.

Don't rage so fiercely, LORD; don't hold our sins against us forever, but gaze now on
your people, all of us.

Called to Partnership with Jesus – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in
Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your
communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony
about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any
spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also
confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the

day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Question? Comment? Express your thoughts with #ColonialUCC. 

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

A Time of Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God is peace; the ever-present, ever-loving, ever-compassionate power that governs the world. Like generations before us, we fail in our efforts to live in the peace and harmony God desires. As in Isaiah's time we become unclean and our righteous deeds become as filthy cloths. We alone cannot wipe clean the slate of our transgressions. We fade like leaves and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

People: **Yet, you, O God, are Father and Mother; like the potter you fashioned us from clay in your holy image. In these silent moments hear the sighing of our spirits as we lay open our hearts to you. Mold us anew, O God, recreate a right image within us.**

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Know this, your world is already a little bit calmer and brighter having offered to God the bits of chaos clouding your life. Now the dark skies give way to beams of light illuminating your way.

People: **We move forward into God's future, forgiven and free. Amen.**

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

Awake, Hear the Call of Watchmen

Dupre

Doxology

Hymn 116, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

* Blessing the Offering

People: God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all the ways you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the distractions of the season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. 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 107** “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

* **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**

Wachet auf: III Finale

Wold

Worship Leaders

Advent Candlelighters: Lou and Mickey Gehring

Advent Liturgist: Whitey Ackley

Videographer: Tim Taylor

Worship Graphics Operator: Hayden Ferguson

Children’s Conversation: Bob Starcke

Hospitality Table: Rosalie Henry

Head Usher: Stacy Kern

Ushers: Marylee Battaglia, Sally Huggins, Stacy Kern, Cindy Lafferty

Fellowship Host: Sally Huggins

Draw Near Advent Banners: Statement from the Artist

The visual details in the banners weave the Christmas story with inspiration from the poetic “Draw Near” prayers written by Sarah Are. The overall image is laid out around the Madonna and Child, located in the banner on the right. The star of Bethlehem rises over an elusive horizon line in the banner on the left. Shepherds gaze up from the fields. A sheep stands in the foreground of the left banner.

Circling top to bottom in a counterclockwise flow, tiny cut outs represent drawing near to wonder, truth, justice, and one another. The sky, stars, leaves, tree branches, and raindrops intertwine to represent wonder. Truth is portrayed by the horizon line and the curling waves; water cleanses each of us of our sins, reminding us that honesty is what God requires. Justice is on the earth, represented by wildflowers in bloom at the bottom of the banners. Roots of the tree of wisdom flow downward from the Madonna and Child representing a world rooted in justice. Finally, sun rays radiate toward the wildflowers of justice at the bottom of the right banner to convey the idea of drawing near to one another. The rays symbolize the intangible connection between human beings.

*“And I have come to see
The space between you and me
As nothing short of holy ground.”*

- Sarah Are



The Sunday Crier

December 2, 2018

Today: Advent Festival – Children’s Pageant, Crafts, Chili-Soup Cookoff and Dinner. 3:30-6:30 p.m. Bring your soup or chili and your family and join us for the annual Advent Festival. 3:30 Children’s Pageant; 4:00 Crafts (\$5/person or max of \$10/family); 5:30 Chili/Soup Cook-Off and meal (freewill donations accepted). No reservations needed.

Poinsettias for the Altar. Poinsettias will be placed on the altar for the Advent/Christmas season. You can order a plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one by picking up an order form in the narthex, filling it out and placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the church office with payment. Cost is \$15. While we do not purchase a plant for every memorial, plants will be available to be taken home Sunday, December 30.

Colonial Giving Tree. Make Christmas merrier for a child in need by donating gifts for Operation Breakthrough. More than 3,000 Kansas City children receive their Christmas gifts through this program. Pick an ornament off the giving tree in the narthex with specific items. Please bring unwrapped gifts back to Colonial by next Sunday. New items only, please.

Choir Christmas Concert and Soup Supper Next Sunday. Sunday, December 9, 5:00 p.m. Join us in the sanctuary for an early evening of joyful singing by the choir followed by a dinner of delicious soups, breads and cookies. Our concert begins at 5:00 p.m., lasting approximately one hour and followed immediately by dinner. During the concert, a freewill offering will be taken to help the choir continue to purchase needed items for the music program. The soup dinner is free.

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. The cover art was created by our own Lisarae Turnbull. Pick yours up in the narthex.

*Altar
Flowers*

The altar flowers today are given by Tim and Donna Owens in celebration of their grandchildren, especially on Avery’s birthday.

Colonial Friends Christmas Lunch. Join your friends from Colonial for a Christmas gathering at Bravo! on Wednesday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Sharon Yohn by December 16 to let her know you are coming and whether you need a ride from the church. Everyone is welcome! Address is: 5005 W. 117th St in Leawood in Town Center.

Colonial Giving Statements with information on 2018 giving through November 30, 2018 will be emailed out the first week in December. If you do not have an email address, the statement will be mailed to you. If you have any questions you may contact Jayne Quimby, Financial Recorder, at jqm333@aol.com or 816-807-3592. If you have not returned your Pledge Card and need another copy, please contact Heather in the office or Jayne Quimby and another copy can be sent to you.

Bible Study: Exodus. Exodus is the foundational story of Judaism and Christianity. It is in this story that the God who saves becomes known. This is the God of Jesus. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you will find insight and blessing in this Bible study. We'll meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for an hour through January 2019, with a few weeks off over Christmas. Even if you can't make it to Colonial Church, you can participate online or call into: <https://zoom.us/j/877825769>

(669)900- 6833 with Meeting ID: 877 825 769

2019 Altar Flowers. We only have 3 dates left for you to sign up – January 27, November 10 and December 29. 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. Call the office if you would like to reserve one of these.

Centering Prayer Update. Note this change: Starting in 2019, we're moving from the second to the third Sunday of the month. See you on December 9 and January 20.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Alden Guild.** Thursday, December 6, 6:00 p.m. at Glenna Loomis' home. Bring a salad to share. RSVP to Glenna Loomis.
- **Blue Moose Tuesday Christmas.** Tuesday, December 11, 6:00 p.m., Lin Vaughn's home (3108 W. 73rd St., Prairie Village). Bring either an appetizer or bottle of Joy. Call (913)961-1247 for directions or questions.

Christmas Pageant 2018. Plans are underway for the 2018 Christmas Pageant at Colonial. The pageant will be presented during the worship service at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24. The pageant is led by the Youth Group with support from the Colonial Tween Squad. This year we are also inviting the children's Sunday School class to participate. For more information or to volunteer to help with the event, contact Nikki Woolsey at nikki.woolsey@colonialucc.org or by calling the church office.

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. Sign up to at <https://tinyurl.com/colonial-ahh18>. The next opportunity is December 23.

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 2

8:30 am Worship

9:00 am Bell Choir, Bell Choir Room

9:15 That Was the Week That Was, Library

9:15 Board of Outreach, Oberlin Room

9:15 Youth Breakfast Church, Youth Room

9:30 Colonial Choir, Choir Room

10:15 Worship

10:30 Sunday School

11:15 Fellowship Time, Heritage Room

3:30 pm Advent Festival/Dinner

MONDAY, December 3

11:30 am Pemberton Memorial Service, Sanctuary

TUESDAY, December 4

8:00 am Men’s Breakfast Group, Perkins

9:30 am Book Group, Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY, December 5

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

7:00 Colonial Choir, Choir Room

THURSDAY, December 6

9:00 am Care Committee, Northampton Room

10:00 am Bible Study

3:00 pm Justice & Witness Committee, Library

6:30 AA, Oberlin Room

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 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.

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

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)