



Photo by Sebastian Fröhlich on Unsplash.



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

December 30, 2018
10:15 a.m.

The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“A Star to Guide Us” 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

Meditation

Vierne

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

* **Hymn 148**

“What Child Is This?”

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy One, we confess that often we miss the miracles happening around us.

People: **We forget to ponder, and wonder in our hearts at the mystery of Your love for us. The joy that might be found is often quickly swept under the rug as the memories of the holidays fade.**

Leader: Help us to remember that You are with us, now and always.

People: Help us to live with the spirit of wonder, awe, and praise in our hearts all year long. In the name of Christ, who came into this world in an unexpected, yet wonderful way, we pray, knowing Christ will come again.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Grace

Leader: In the newness of this day, this week, this coming year: may we know God's abundant love for us. May we turn back to God's ways, forgiving one another and loving one another, and may we know that God is making all things new again.

People: We go with joy into this new year, knowing that in Christ there is always new life. Amen.

* Sung Response

Gloria, hymn 756

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

* **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 Proclaimed

Rev. Nikki Woolsey

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

Sharing of Star Words for the Coming Year

* Hymn 417

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

Verses 1-4

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

In Quiet Joy

Dupre

Doxology

Hymn 782; tune Old Hundredth

***To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.***

* Blessing the Offering

People: Loving God, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through these gifts, empower us to live in your Word today. 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

Noel nouvelet

Hudson

Worship Leaders

Liturgist:	Joan Gilson
Videographer:	Tim Taylor
Worship Graphics Operator:	Hayden Ferguson
Children's Conversation:	Martha Wofford
Hospitality Table:	Sharon Yohn
Head Usher:	Bruce Wofford
Ushers:	Martha Wofford, Bill Yohn
Fellowship Host:	Sally Huggins



The Sunday Crier

December 30, 2018

Sunday Night Movie. Please join us today 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.

Racism, Our Original Sin - Sermon Series Beginning on January 13. America's problem with race has deep roots. All of us carry a sense of implicit or unconscious bias that affects our behavior. Christians acknowledge that our communities remain divided largely by race. In our January, guided by Christ's vision, we are going to imagine a new vision. *The Idol of Whiteness* - January 13; *A Segregated Church or a Beloved Community* - January 20; *Bridge to a New American Vision* - January 27

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.

*Altar
Flowers*

Today’s flowers are given by Julie Burik and Carolyn Steffen in honor of Julie’s parents and in loving memory of Carolyn’s parents.

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.

2019 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The act of taking a journey – a pilgrimage – can result in profoundly new perspectives and spiritual growth. The Holy Land is often referred to as the 5th Gospel for the power of this place to spiritually enlighten a person. Later in 2019, Pastor Aaron is planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and is inviting anyone in our church community to join him. The cost will be about \$3,000. If you are interested this pilgrimage, please let him know by January 31 at <https://colonialucc.breezechms.com/form/480a22>

Men's Breakfast Group. 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.

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. The food pantry uses these dollars to purchase items from Harvesters at a very good price. The wagon swells the first week of the month when Temple Sinai add their contributions.

The Week Ahead**TODAY, 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

WEDNESDAY, January 2

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

THURSDAY, January 3

9:00 am Care Committee, Northampton Room

10:00 am Bible Study

3:00 pm Justice & Witness Committee, Library

6:30 pm AA, Oberlin Room

FRIDAY, January 4

8:30 am Quiltmakers, Social Hall

SATURDAY, January 5

6:00 pm All-Church Game Night, Social Hall

SUNDAY, January 6

8:30 am Worship

9:15 Board of Outreach, Oberlin Room

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

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)