



Wisdom

Art - Art4TheGlyOfGod

(*Wisdom* used with permission by Art4TheGlyOfGod by Sharon.)

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing. **-Socrates**



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

December 31, 2017
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
New Year's Eve Sunday 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 *In dulci júbilo and How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* -various

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.

* **Opening Hymn #469 vs 1-3** *O Grant Us Light*

Opening Prayer

You have brought us to the end of another year, Gracious God, and we hope and pray our actions have been to your liking. You ask little of us yet shower us with grace and silent companions who walk with us even though their presence may not be known to us. Thank you for helping us live lives that are pleasing to you so that we may make this world a better place. We are blessed. Amen.

Time of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Response

*** Sung Response — Gloria #759 adapted**

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen. Amen.

*** Sharing God's Welcome** (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 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.

We Hear a Word from God

A Word Proclaimed

-The Rev. Janet Weiblen

The following texts are from The Inclusive Bible, *the First Egalitarian Translation*. {The only word changed was YHWH (Yahweh) for which Rev. Weiblen substituted "God" since many Christians are unfamiliar with the Hebrew word, YHWH = God.}

Sirach 1: 1-8 Wisdom come from God; She dwells with God forever. Who can count the sand in the sea, the drops of rain, the days of eternity, the height of the sky, the width of the earth, the depth of the abyss? Only Wisdom can—the first of all creation, judicious understanding from the beginning. To whom has the root of wisdom been disclosed? Who understands Her resilience? There is only One, wise and awe-inspiring; One who sits upon the judgment seat. It is God who created Her, espied Her, appraised Her; who has poured Her forth upon all God's works, upon every living creature, as a gift, and lavished Her upon those who love the Most High.

Sirach 24: 2-7, 9 She (Wisdom) speaks out in the assembly of God, in the presence of God's host: "I am the word come forth from the mouth of God, I enveloped the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the high heavens, my judgment seat a

cumulus cloud. Alone I encompassed the vault of the sky; I wandered across the abyss. Over the waves of the sea, over the whole earth, over all peoples and nations I reigned. I searched for a place to rest among all these places, where would I dwell among all of creation...Before motion began to be measured, God created me, and my heritage will last forever.

The Wisdom of Solomon 7:7 and 7:21-8:1

So I prayed, and understanding was given me: I called for help, and the spirit of Wisdom came to my aid.....Wisdom was my teacher, and it was She who designed all these things. Inside Wisdom, there is a spirit of intelligence and holiness that is unique and unmistakable: subtle, dynamic, perceptive, pristine, unclouded, unconquerable, compassionate, shrewd, compelling, generous and loving towards mortals, faithful, faultless, serene, directing all, knowing all, and pervading every intelligent, pure and most subtle spirit. For Wisdom moves more swiftly than motion itself; She is so pure that She pervades and permeates all living things. She is a breath of the power of God, a pure light of the glory of the Most High, and nothing that is base can come into Her presence in secret. She is a light that shines forth from everlasting light, the flawless mirror of the dynamism of God and the perfect image of the Holy One's goodness. Though alone of Her kind, She can do all things; though unchanging, She renews all things; generation after generation, she enters into holy souls and makes them friends of God and prophets. For God loves the one who finds a home in Wisdom. She is more beautiful than the sun, and more magnificent than all the stars in the sky. When compared with daylight, She excels in every way, for the day always give way to night, But Wisdom never gives way to evil. She stretches forth Her power from one end of the earth to the other and gently puts all things in their proper place.

For more on Lady Wisdom, see Proverbs 8:1 - 9:1

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

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.

We Depart to Serve

* Hymn #398

Shadow and Substance

* **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 — *God Be With You #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**

Noël

-Daquin

Guest Organist

Jo Kraus

Liturgist:

Diane Kuhn

Videographer:

Geoff Robinson

Worship Graphics Operator:

Hayden Ferguson

Children's Conversation:

Martha Wofford

Hospitality Table:

Sally Huggins

Head Usher:

Bill Yohn

Ushers:

Cindy Lafferty, Linda Moses

Mary Pelton, Bill Yohn

Coffee and Conversation Hosts:

Sally Huggins, Cindy Lafferty

United Church of Christ Mission Moment - Long Awaited Gift
 Sunday, December 31, 2017 - Luke 2: 22-40

Today is the Sunday we remember Jesus being dedicated in the Temple. It's a big event for the newborn Jesus, even if he's just a baby and probably won't remember, his parents will remember. They'll remember because of the stir this baby causes among the Temple regulars. Though this is a special baby. He is, after all, the baby of the season but he is also all babies. Here he is being presented according to tradition. Babies were dedicated this way, especially first born males.

Babies have always been present in places of worship, even if sitting on a parent's lap, asleep or squirming. Pews are not always the most comfortable seating to rock and comfort a baby. Wouldn't it be great if churches took out the last pew and put a row of rocking chairs in its place? Parents could sit with their baby rocking, soothing in comfort—

Less distraction, less discomfort and way more welcoming. It's not an unusual idea, in fact it's been done. Old First United Church of Christ in Philadelphia has done just that. Parents no longer must pace in the back and bounce. In the First Congregational Church UCC of Elyria, Ohio and the Ellington Congregational Church of Ellington, Connecticut they simply placed a rocking chair in the rear of the sanctuary.

We are a denomination that has declared ourselves on a journey to incarnate the love of Christ as we work to build a just world for all. Love of children. Love of neighbor and love of creation. These are our three great loves. Churches across the UCC are sharing their stories in this denomination-wide focus on mission. You can find out how other churches are loving children by going to 3greatloves.org. Share what you do to welcome, empower, include, minister to/for and with children. See what others are doing.

When children and their parents come to your door and enter your sanctuary how are they welcomed? How do they know there is a place for them? If children feel that it is a place built for adults why would they want to come? Welcome is more than a children's sermon. It's a place built for welcome. It's a sanctuary that says this is a place built for you, not that you have to twist yourself to fit into it. This is yours. Come and let us be together as we are,
 all of us old and young.

Remember: *"A person's a person, no matter how small."* Dr. Seuss



The Sunday Crier

December 31, 2017

January Sermon Series: *Ethics for Today*

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

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.

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.

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 the 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.

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.

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!

Switch Your Subscription to E-Crier

As one of your New Year's resolutions, consider going paperless with your Crier. The e-Crier has the same content and saves the church \$26 in postage over the course of the year. Contact Heather in the church office to confirm.

The Week Ahead**TODAY, 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 Hal

SUNDAY, January 7

8:30 am—Worship

9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library

9:15—Board of Outreach, Oberlin Room

9:30—Choir Rehearsal, Founders Chapel

10:15—Worship

10:30—Sunday School

11:15—Coffee & Conversation, Heritage Room

MONDAY, January 8

9:30 am—Colonial Women Breakfast and Coffee, Big Biscuit.

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—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)

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)