



Shuttlecock and Nelson Atkins by Nikki Pirch.

Without tradition, art is a flock of sheep without a shepherd. Without innovation, it is a corpse.

-Winston Churchill



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

January 26, 2020
10:15 a.m.

The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“Blessings for All!” Worship Service in the series *Experiencing Gratitude*

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Hankey

Diemer

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign and pass the pew pads. Prayer request cards are available for prayers you would like to offer in our community’s prayer ministry this coming week. Cards may be placed in the offering plate later in the service.

A Moment to Lay Our Burdens Down

*** Hymn #394**

“In Christ There is No East or West”

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

adapted from Beth Merrill Neel

Leader: O God who loves us, hear our prayer. So often we come to you at a loss – at a loss for the right words, the right deeds, the right feelings.

People: We know all is not right, but we cannot say with certainty what is wrong.

Leader: There are deep divisions between us and others. There are too many who live in poverty and fear. There are too many horrific stories, and not enough hopeful ones.

People: Let us spread hope!

Leader: So we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer, to make things right, and to make us right with you and each other.

People: Turn us around from that which destroys toward that which heals and brings joy.

Leader: Hear us again, as we offer you our confession in silence.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Friends, let us proclaim the Good News.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Leader: Let us go out into the world as people made new by God.

People: Amen.

* Sung Response

Hymn #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

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 in Music

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Raney

A Word Proclaimed

Pastor Aaron Roberts

Ezra Found the Country to Be Different Than He Imagined – Ezra 9:1-4

“The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites haven’t kept themselves separate from the peoples of the neighboring lands with their detestable practices; namely, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. They’ve taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, and the holy descendants have become mixed with the neighboring peoples. Moreover, the officials and leaders have led the way in this unfaithfulness.”

When I heard this, I tore my clothes and cloak, pulled out hair from my head and beard, and sat down in shock. Then all those who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me on account of the transgression of the returned exiles while I remained sitting in shock until the evening sacrifice.”

Ezra Issues an Order to Separate Families – Ezra 10:10-11

Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You have been unfaithful by marrying foreign women and adding to Israel’s guilt. But now, make a confession to the Lord God of your ancestors and do his will. Separate yourselves from the neighboring peoples and from the foreign wives.”

Nehemiah Orders the Rebuilding of Walls – Nehemiah 2:17

[Governor Nehemiah] said to them, “You see the trouble that we’re in: Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates are destroyed by fire! Come, let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.”

Inclusivity is a Principle of Christ’s Way – Galatians 3:26-28

You are all God’s children in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide

Sing! Prayer and Praise

Refrain

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side.

Draw the circle wide.

Verse 1

*God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever; in God's gracious arms. Refrain*

Verse 2

*Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. Refrain*

Verse 3

*Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. Refrain*

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

Belmont

Peeters

Doxology

Hymn #778

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

* Blessing the Offering

As we give our gifts this morning, we remember that our lives are a journey, and there are wounded and hurting people everywhere. May the gifts we offer this morning be used to bind up the wounds, ease pain, give hope to those hurting 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 creates 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 #391 “In the Midst of New Dimensions”

* **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**

Wie schön leuchtet

Drischner

Worship Leaders

Liturgist:	Rebecca Lu
Videographer:	Ryan Henley
Worship Graphics Operator:	Hayden Ferguson
Children’s Conversation:	Meredith Henley
Hospitality Table:	Martha Wofford
Head Usher:	Allan Flentie
Ushers:	Loren Griffith, Martha Wofford
Fellowship Host:	Linda Cunningham

Called Together: A UCC Mission Moment

Matthew 4:12-23 *Health and Human Service Sunday*

Wonderful Creator, In the beginning you made the world – rocks and trees, water and animals. You created, and you looked on your creation and called it good. Good, you decided, but not complete. And so you created us. You made people. You created us to be beautifully diverse – with many colors of skin, many levels of ability, many shapes and sizes. In our diversity, you also created us with a common longing – to love and be loved, to grow and thrive, to live lives of meaning and purpose.

Brother Christ, You came to earth to show us how to be both fully human and completely divine. You loved and cried, taught and touched, died and rose again. By your healing touch, you brought others close to you and to your heavenly Parent. You modeled for us how to live lives of sacrifice and service, how to be healers of the ills of body and mind. You encouraged us to be bringers of hope to all we encounter.

Holy Spirit, You are the Advocate. You accompany us day by day, hour by hour, breath by breath. You are the challenger, the encourager and the sustainer. You impel us toward places of need and longing in your world, and infuse us with the desire to be your people. You lift us, giving us energy when our own spirits flag. And you promise to remain with us, no matter what.

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer; you are both one and three. You are both distinct and in relationship. As neither one part of your divine being is complete without the others, so we are called to lives of radical interconnectivity. Create in us a desire to bring hope and healing to all we encounter. In your many powerful names we pray, Amen.

Today is Health and Human Service Sunday. This is a special opportunity to create awareness of the health concerns of our communities and world, and to learn about the many and various health and human service ministries of the United Church of Christ. It is observed annually in the United Church of Christ and is an opportunity to talk about health in a holistic way, address the issues of justice in our health care systems and learn about how each of us can become involved. The resources for observing Health and Human Service are available throughout the year and may be used for the many opportunities congregations and other organizations have for creating awareness of and responding to the health needs of their communities and throughout the world. To learn more about Health and Human Service Sunday, please visit:

https://www.ucc.org/health_hhs-sunday



The Sunday Crier

January 26, 2020

Immigration 101 Today. Enjoy tamales, beans, and rice in the Social Hall after the second service today while you learn about immigration policies from representatives from AIRR (Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation). An immigration attorney will explain how changes in immigration laws affect people locally. Other speakers will address migration globally and offer faith/theological reflections on migration. Q & A will follow the presentations as well as suggested opportunities to implement AIRR's mission and help your neighbors.

Congregational Meeting on February 2. We will have a congregational meeting on Sunday, February 2, following the 8:30 service and then continuing after the 10:15 service to consider and vote on the proposed church budget for 2020.

Trivia Night. Our annual Trivia Night will be held on leap day, Saturday, February 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. That is close enough to March that the theme once again will be March Madness. Teams are encouraged to dress in the apparel of their favorite college basketball teams and decorate their tables as they wish. Sign up your team online at <https://tinyurl.com/colonial-trivia20>. If you don't have a team, we will help you find a spot. Cost is \$10 per person. Teams are limited to six persons to maintain an even playing field. You don't have to pay until that evening. Bring snacks to share with the whole group. Beverages will be provided. Beer and wine tickets are \$2.00. Child care will be available for infants and toddlers by reservation to info@colonialucc.org by February 26.

Colonial Pub Night on February 18. The next Colonial Church Pub Night is Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Kansas City Bier Company (310 W 79th St, Kansas City, MO 64114). People have been gathering in pubs for ages to talk about life. Please let Heather in the church office know if you're planning to go so that we can reserve a large enough table.

*Altar
Flowers*

Today's altar flowers are given by Jerry Uppman in loving memory of his wife, Marilyn.

Gratitude Discussion Group. Are you interested in a group read and discussion of Diana Butler Bass' book "Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks" with Pastor Aaron? Contact the church office to let us know.

Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate for Sale. The Board of Outreach is selling fair trade coffee and chocolate on the third Sunday of each month beginning in February in the narthex. It's at the price Equal Exchange charges us because we believe offering fair trade products brings justice to those farmers who are trying to support their families with a sustainable income. This supports coffee and cacao bean farmers because our purchases ensure they are guaranteed a fair price for their crops. If you would like to purchase at another time, contact the church office or Diane Kuhn.



Collecting Coats for Sheffield Place. We have a box in the narthex for donations of winter coats – any size, any gender – which we will donate to Sheffield Place. Colonial's Molly's Table program supports Sheffield Place, which has assisted more than 1,200 women and their children in making the difficult journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Colonial Women Activities. All women of Colonial Church are invited to gather with others in casual fellowship opportunities, whether you prefer breakfast, happy hour or discussing a book. Check out the options below. No reservations required.

- **Coffee/Breakfast.** Monday, February 3, 9:30 a.m., Big Biscuit.
- **Dinner Group.** Thursday, February 6, 6:00 p.m., Thai Place in Louisburg Square. RSVP to Jayne Quimby.
- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, February 11, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Village Shops.

Help Needed for our Meals for the Homeless in 2020. 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-ahh20>. Meal preparation usually starts around 2:00 p.m., so the meal can be available in Mill Creek Park by about 4:00 p.m.

Colonial's Inclement Weather Policy. The policy for weekdays is to close the church office whenever the Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes for inclement weather. Canceling activities, other than worship services, is the responsibility of the person in charge.

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 to Colonial for the collection plate marked "Food Pantry" on the memo line.

The Week Ahead**TODAY, January 26**

8:30 am Worship

9:15 That Was the Week That Was, Library

10:15 Worship

10:15 Tweens, Cambridge Room

10:30 Sunday School

11:15 Fellowship Time, Heritage Room

11:15 Immigration 101, Social Hall

2:00 pm AHH Cooking, Social Hall

TUESDAY, January 28

9:30 am Book Group, Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY, January 29

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

7:00 pm Colonial Choir, Choir Room

THURSDAY, January 30

9:00 am Care Committee, Northampton Room

10:30 am Bible Study

6:30 pm AA, Oberlin Room

FRIDAY, January 31

9:00 am Quiltmakers, Social Hall

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 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 Cambridge Room for all students in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades.

Youth—The Colonial Youth Group welcomes 7th-12th grade students. The group meets every other Sunday beginning in the youth room (Savoy) during the worship service at 10:15 a.m. Fellowship, learning, and service activities are planned throughout the year. Friends are welcome anytime, to class meetings or our outside activities.

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 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)

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

Youth Leader: Michelle Turpen

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)

Engagement Coordinator: Julie Luttmann (julie.luttmann@colonialucc.org)