

Together...

We make a difference!

There would be no society if living together depended upon understanding each other.

-Eric Hoffer



Colonial Church
in Prairie Village

www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

November 19, 2017
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
 “The Joy of Being Together” Sunday Worship Service
 in the series *Together We Make a Difference***

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Chant de Paix

-Langlais

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 #422 *Come, O Thankful People, Come***

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Our Creator, you have made an intricate and diverse world, and set us to cultivate it reverently and responsibly.

Forgive us when we forget our connection with all of creation.

Our Creator, you have made a world of abundance and intend for us to share so that all may have their “daily bread.”

Forgive us when we lose the sense of hospitality and community.

Our Creator, you have sent us Jesus, the “Bread of Life” to satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst.

Forgive us when we do not respond to his justice and mercy.

Everyday and all day let us shape our very lives by focusing our minds on what is beautiful and worthy of praise.

Forgive us when we forget that you make all things possible.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Grace

*** 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 in Music

A Thanksgiving Tapestry

-Purifoy

A Word Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

Wouldn't It Be Nice?

Psalm 133:1 Look at how good and pleasing it is when families live together as one!

The Secret to Joy

John 15:11-12 [Jesus said,] "So that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you."

From Whence Anger Overflows

Luke 6:45 [Jesus said,] "A good person produces good from the good treasury of the inner self, while an evil person produces evil from the evil treasury of the inner self. The inner self overflows with words that are spoken."

A Better Way

Romans 12:14-18 Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them.

Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead associate with people who have no status.

Don't think that you're so smart.

Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good. If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.

Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends.

1 Peter 3:9 Don't pay back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give blessing in return. You were called to do this so that you might inherit a blessing.

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn #421

We Gather Together

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *He that Suffereth God to Guide Him* -Dupre
 (Our weekly offering includes food collected in the red wagon to help fill local pantries.)

Doxology (#780 adapted; tune Old Hundredth)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, you heavenly host:
 Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

* Blessing the Offering

-by Rev. Kaji Dousa

**O God, we have come, and what a delight it has been!
 We have come before your table with gifts –
 gifts of ourselves, gifts of risk, gifts of newness, gifts of trust.
 We thank you for the chance to give,
 and pray that we and all whom our gifts bless will never be the same.
 Through our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, 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.

Bringing Our Pledges to Support God's Work through Colonial Church

(As we sing our Consecration Hymn, come forward to the basket in the front of the sanctuary and place your pledge card in the basket. If you have made your pledge online or already sent it in – no worries! There are cards in each of the pews for you to bring forward.)

Consecration Hymn #562 *Take My Gifts*

Blessing of the Pledges

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving, these cards represent our sweat. They represent our lives. They represent our dreams.

The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place.

May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us. May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with possibilities.

May we hold this image in our hearts and minds so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of this offering, it is us on the table, living sacrifices to you. Amen.

(written by Rev. Greg Rickel)

We Depart to Serve

* **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**

Holy Manna

-Kern

Liturgist:

Diane Kuhn

Videographer:

Geoff Robinson

Worship Graphics Operator:

Hayden Ferguson

Children's Conversation:

Darren Carpenter

Hospitality Table:

Jayne Quimby

Head Usher:

Mariam Fleming

Ushers:

Mariam Fleming, Randy Freeman,
Sue Freeman, Loren Griffith

United Church of Christ Mission Moment - November 19, 2017 Thanksgiving Sunday
Extravagant Opportunity Matthew 25: 14-30

In this familiar parable from Matthew, three guys get tested with their boss's money. It's a test of how to grow treasure. We are all given treasures in this life. How do we care for them? What are the expectations on us as caretakers of this holy and beautiful world? One of the ways the United Church of Christ takes care of our part of the world is by working toward bold ecumenical partnerships based around ministries we share. We do this in service of witness to the prayer of Jesus, "that they may all be one."

In the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ there is a brand new ecumenical partnership that matches the extravagant expectations made on the church of Jesus Christ to grow and not hide in the ground.

The Dutch who settled Manhattan in the 17th century brought their Reformed Church to North America. Today, there are four Collegiate churches of New York City, all members of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), and now, along with three other churches in the New York City area, they are affiliates of the United Church of Christ. This is truly a huge and extravagant ecumenical partnership. Based on a shared witness, an active social justice advocacy and an embrace of the LGBTQ community, this relationship announces an exciting turn in the expression of Christian unity.

The new relationship is not just a witness—it is also a working relationship. The seven RCA churches will make up a new association of the New York Conference—the Reformed Association. This Association was chartered on May 4, 2017.

Rev. David Gaewski, New York Conference Minister, said of this announcement that it was " . . . an important witness for large churches to make in the city—so now we have several of our largest churches in New York City being LGBTQ-affirming churches. It furthers the mission of the UCC and the New York Conference."

Think of the many things we'll be able to do together, think of the new voices we'll raise, think of the attention we can create toward justice and life-affirming ministries in the City of New York.

Much of the credit for the long leg work and dialogue that took place to make this happen by a unanimous vote goes to former UCC Communications Director, Reverend Bob Chase, whose organization, *Intersections International*, promotes peace and ecumenical dialogue.



The Sunday Crier

November 19, 2017

Thanksgiving Dinner Today

Join your Colonial family for Thanksgiving dinner today at 11:15 a.m. in the Social Hall. The Board of Parish Life will provide the traditional elements of the meal: delicious turkey, dressing, potatoes, rolls and beverages. Freewill offering to cover expenses.

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 using the the order form included, 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 on Sunday, December 31.

Choir Christmas Concert and Soup Supper

Sunday, December 10, 5:00 p.m. Save the date for the Colonial Choir's annual Christmas concert followed by a soup supper. You don't want to miss this!

Sign up to help at the Christmas Store! Stop by the table in the narthex after both services today! We will be setting up the store the week of November 26, and the store will be open from December 4-9. We are in a new place, on State Avenue just off I-635. You can also sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/cross-lines>. Helping with the Christmas Store will make your Christmas very meaningful.

Advent Festival - Children's Pageant, Crafts, Chili-Soup Cookoff and Dinner

Sunday, December 3, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Join us for the annual Advent Festival
3:30-4:00 Children's Pageant; 4:00-5:30 Crafts (\$5/person or max of \$10/ family);
5:30-6:30 Chili/Soup Cook-Off and meal (freewill donations accepted). **Volunteers Needed for Crafts** – The shifts are 4:00 to 4:45 and 4:45 to 5:30 (45 minutes each). If you are interested in helping with a craft please, sign up in the narthex today or contact Martha Wofford or Marylee Battaglia.

*Altar
Flowers*

Thanks to Missy Flachsbarth and Hayden Ferguson for creating our Thanksgiving altar.

2018 Altar Flowers. Please sign up to purchase flowers for our altar for your chosen Sunday in 2018. 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. You can sign up in the narthex or contact Hope Cotten at 816-273-8628 or hopelgarrett@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer for the Holiday Season. Thanksgiving and Christmas can wear a person out. This might be the year to take on a new habit to focus on what's really important. Centering prayer is one way to do that. Join us to talk about what centering prayer is and how to do it, and then to pray together. No preparation is necessary; all are welcome. We'll meet Nov. 26 and Dec. 3, 10, and 17 between 9:30 and 10:00 in the Preschool room downstairs. For more information, contact Elizabeth Uppman at elizabethuppman@kc.surewest.net.

Bright Light Friday. Do you want to skip the shopping madness on Black Friday? Then join us for Mr. Stinky Feet's Bright Light Friday on November 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Plaza Library's Truman Auditorium - 4801 Main St, Kansas City, MO. We'll be collecting winter clothing items for Artists Helping the Homeless. Please bring new, or gently used hats, gloves, scarves, socks, or blankets. This concert is free and open to all ages.

Colonial Women Activities

- **Coffee.** Monday, December 4, 9:30 a.m., Big Biscuit
- **Luncheon Out.** Wednesday, December 6, 11:30 a.m., O'Neill's Restaurant in Ranchmart (95th and Mission Road). RSVP to Linda Moses.
- **Alden Guild.** Thursday, December 7, 6:00 p.m., at home of Glenna Loomis for a salad supper. Call Glenna at 913-362-1051 for details. Everyone is welcome.

Colonial Giving Tree 2017. 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. Beginning Thanksgiving weekend, November 26, the giving tree will be set up in the narthex. You may select ornaments with specific item names written on them or check the list in this Wednesday's Crier. Please bring unwrapped gifts back to Colonial by Sunday, December 10. New items only, please. Questions: contact Carrie Roberts at 913-754-6209 or caroberts1795@yahoo.com.

New Colonial Directories Available. New church directories have been distributed at the 10:15 worship service over the past few weeks. If you haven't gotten yours yet, stop by the church office or ask at the Hospitality Table on Sunday morning.

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!

The Week Ahead**TODAY, November 19**

8:30 am—Worship
9:00 am—Bell Choir, Bell Choir Room
9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library
9:30—Choir Rehearsal, Founders Chapel
10:15—Worship
10:30—Sunday School
11:15—Thanksgiving Dinner, Social Hall

MONDAY, November 20

5:30 pm—Council/Administrative Board, Heritage Room

TUESDAY, November 21

9:30 am—Book Group, Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, November 22-24

Office Closed

SUNDAY, November 26

8:30 am—Worship
9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library
9:30—Centering Prayer, Preschool Room
9:30—Choir Rehearsal, Founders Chapel
10:15—Worship
10:30—Sunday School
2:00 pm—AHH Cooking, Social Hall

MONDAY, November 27

10:00 am—Colonial Women Board, 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 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)