



(*Trust Fall* used with permission by Barret Anspach.)

Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.

-Thomas Merton



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

November 26, 2017
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
“It’s Hard to Be Humble” 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

Ar hyd y nos

-Stoldt

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 #553**

There Is a Balm in Gilead

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, too often, we overlook the needs of people around us while we proclaim our devotion to you. We could do so much more to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick. We fail to see how our prison system diminishes the humanity of all of us, how our medical system denies healing to the poor, how poverty leaves children without coats, how legal obstacles keep the strangers at a distance.

Open our eyes to see your presence in every person, and to respond to their needs so that we may be rightly called by your name.

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

Make A Joyful Noise

-J.S. Bach

A Word Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

A Surprising Wedding Scripture

Ephesians 5:22-24 For example, wives should submit to their husbands as if to the Lord. A husband is the head of his wife like Christ is head of the church, that is, the savior of the body. So wives submit to their husbands in everything like the church submits to Christ.

Humility as a Virtue

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, so does shame, but wisdom brings humility.

Whom Shall I Trust?

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, don't believe every spirit. Test the spirits to see if they are from God because many false prophets have gone into the world.

Test the Fruits

Matthew 7:15-20 [Jesus taught:] "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you dressed like sheep, but inside they are vicious wolves. You will know them by their fruit. Do people get bunches of grapes from thorny weeds, or do they get figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, and every rotten tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit. And a rotten tree can't produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, you will know them by their fruit.

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn #465

Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

In This Very Room

-Harris

Kathy Huey, mezzo soprano

(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. Ruth Garwood

God of abundance, we give these offerings of material goods as our commitment to give back to you and to care for your people. Let our giving remind us to see Jesus all around us. Use our offerings of money and of our lives for ministry to your purposes. 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.

We Depart to Serve

* Hymn #429

God, Bless Our Homes

* **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**

Lobe den Herren

-Micheelson

Liturgist:

Brook Carson

Videographer:

Geoff Robinson

Worship Graphics Operator:

Hayden Ferguson

Children's Conversation:

Bob Starcke

Hospitality Table:

Rosalie Henry

Head Usher:

Stacy Huggins

Ushers:

Sally Huggins, Stacy Huggins, Cindy Lafferty
Bill Sanderson

United Church of Christ Mission Moment - November 26, 2017
 Reign of Christ Sunday - Reigning Compassion: Matthew 25:31-46

In 1953, the *Daily Worker* published a “wanted” poster. It showed a sketch of a man with long hair and a beard. The name under the face was “Jesus Christ.” And under that was printed,

“Wanted—for sedition, Criminal Anarchy, Vagrancy and conspiring to overthrow the established government. Dresses poorly, said to be a carpenter by trade, ill-nourished, has visionary ideas, associates with common working people, the unemployed and bums. Alien—believed to be a Jew.”

In 1971 two Pittsburgh shopkeepers posted a copy of that poster on their windows and were charged with blasphemy under a statute enacted in 1794. The County prosecutor in the case asked that the charges be dropped. They were dropped, and that ended prosecutions for blasphemy in the United States.

The Jesus the poster describes infers a message very like the one in today’s Gospel lesson. It’s a message that says what we do to the least of humanity, we do to Jesus. Being an advocate for those who are hungry, and thirsty, and sick and in prison is the very heart of the Gospel. Rather than a catechism listing right beliefs about Jesus, it more often offers a vision of a life that is possible for us—a life of being wholly present and committed to a just and joyful life for all. One of the charges against Jesus at the end of his life was, as written in John’s Gospel, “Blasphemy.” Perhaps being an advocate for those who are excluded and marginalized is a kind of blasphemy to those in power. A blasphemy in service to justice.

There is a seminary scholarship fund that supports ministers who model that understanding of Jesus as one who advocated for justice and have proven a history of leadership through their service to the church and the world. The scholarship is funded by the United Black Christians for African-American seminary students in their second or third year who are in care in a UCC Conference or Association. Named in honor of Rev. Dr. Joseph Henry Evans, the third president and first Black president of the UCC, the fund was established in 2009 in covenant with the UCC’s Local Church Ministries.

Remembering how important the Black church has been for the survival and community support for African-Americans in our country, the United Black Christians are organized to assure the continued support and growth of that church, and keeping those voices in service to those on the margins alive and well in our pulpits.

If you want to support that fund, or if you know of a ministry student who would be a likely candidate, email scholarships@ucc.org.



The Sunday Crier

November 26, 2017

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.

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.

Household Supplies for Christmas Store. Every year at the Christmas Store, we provide household supplies for each of the 425 families at the store – laundry detergent, dish detergent, toilet paper, Kleenex, and hand soap. We will be collecting money to purchase supplies the next few Sundays. It costs about \$10 a family, and there are more families that come to the store than come to Colonial, so consider supporting 3 families, or 5, or 10! Write a check to the church with “Christmas Store” in the memo line, or put cash in an envelope and mark it “Christmas Store.” **Sign up to help at the Christmas Store!** Still need workers for November 28-December 1 to setup, and on Saturday, December 9, in the morning to work the store and at 1 p.m. to dismantle it. Sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/cross-lines> or stop by the table in the narthex after both services today.

*Altar
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are given by JAN NEUSTROM in loving memory of her son, Ned.

Advent Booklet. Advent is the season of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of the Christ child. This year the Advent booklet available to members was written by members of the congregation 30 years ago – in 1987– but the sentiments are still inspirational today. The cover art was created by our own Jane Pronko. Pick yours up in the narthex.

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.

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 for Crafts –** The shifts are 4:00 to 4:45 and 4:45 to 5:30 (45 minutes each). Sign up in the narthex today or contact Martha Wofford or Marylee Battaglia.

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.

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!

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.

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 26

8:30 am—Worship
 9:00—Bell Choir, Bell Choir Room
 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

TUESDAY, November 28

9:30 am—Book Group, Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY, November 29

9:30 am—Visit with Pastor Aaron, Einstein Brothers in Prairie Village Shops
 7:00 pm—Colonial Choir

THURSDAY, November 30

12:00 pm—Bible Study
 6:30 pm—AA, Oberlin Room

FRIDAY, December 1

8:30 am—Quiltmakers, Social Hall

SUNDAY, December 3

8:30 am—Worship
 9:00—Bell Choir, Bell Choir Room
 9:15—That Was the Week That Was, Library
 9:15—Board of Outreach, Oberlin Room
 9:30—Centering Prayer, Preschool Room
 9:30—Choir Rehearsal, Founders Chapel
 10:15—Worship
 10:30—Sunday School
 11:15—Hospitality Team, Library
 3:30-6:30 pm—Advent Festival

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)