



(Martin Luther used with permission by thierry ehrmann.)

God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.
-Martin Luther



www.colonialucc.org
913-362-7735

October 8, 2017
10:15 a.m.

**The Colonial Church in Prairie Village—United Church of Christ
 “Martin Luther: *Sola Scriptura*” Animal Blessing Sunday Worship Service
 in the series *The Year Was 1517...***

Please silence your electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* Please rise in body or spirit

We Gather as God’s Beloved People

Gathering Music

Our Father In Heaven

-Dupre

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: God is good...

People: all the time!

Leader: All the time...

People: God is good!

* Opening Hymn #17 vs 1-3 *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*

Blessing of the Animals

Prayer of Blessing

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, your creatures. We pray especially for all that are suffering in any way: for the overworked and underfed, the lost, or hungry; for all in captivity or ill-treated, and for those that must be put to death. For those who deal with them, we ask a gentle heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kindly words. Make us all true friends to animals and worthy followers of our merciful Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Animal Blessing

(You are welcome to bring your companion animal forward for this blessing: Live without fear. Your Creator loves you and makes you holy. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. Amen.

We will then together bless the animals who are not here with us using the same blessing.)

*** Sung Response — Hymn #17 vs 4 *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*
To you, O God, day after day, your planet Earth in every way,
sings your praises, alleluia, As savory fruit and fragrant flower
show forth your glory and your power, singing praises,
*alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

*** 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

Let All Things Now Living

-Ash Grove

A Word Proclaimed

-Pastor Aaron Roberts

Martin Luther's Feelings about "The Righteous God"

I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly. I was angry with God, and said, "As if, indeed, it is not enough, that miserable sinners, eternally lost through original sin, are crushed by every kind of calamity by the law of the Decalogue, without having God add pain to pain by the gospel and also by the gospel threatening us with his righteousness and wrath!" Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience. -Martin Luther

Luther's Question - "Will an Unrighteous Person Die With No Hope?"

Romans 1:16-17 I'm not ashamed of the gospel: it is God's own power for salvation to all who have faith in God, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. God's righteousness is being revealed in the gospel, from faithfulness for faith, as it is written, "The righteous person will live by faith."

A New Time of Reformation

Isaiah 43:18-19 Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?

Express your thoughts via social media #ColonialUCC

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

* Hymn #316

We Limit Not the Truth of God

A Time of Gifts and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Finale from Chamber Symphony

-Kern

Laurel Mundell, 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

Loving God, as Jesus made a few loaves and fish into a meal for thousands, multiply our offerings.

Take these gifts we bring you as a token of our desire for oneness with creation and justice for all your people. 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 #286

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

* **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 #809 *God Be With You***

***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**

Lasst uns Erfreuen

-Kern

Liturgist:

Marion Taylor

Videographer:

Geoff Robinson

Worship Graphics Operator:

Hayden Ferguson

Children's Conversation:

Marilyn Uppman

Hospitality Table:

Rosalie Henry

Head Usher:

Stacy Huggins

Ushers:

Stacy Huggins, Mary Pelton

Ed Rowe, Leonore Rowe

October 8, 2017 - United Church of Christ Mission Moment
Wisdom for the Way
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9,12-20

Just like the Constitution of the United States, lots of people swear by the Ten Commandments but few have read and studied it or them deeply or paid them much mindful attention. And just because they were written on a stone doesn't mean they should feel like a stone around your neck. Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for us and we were not created for the Sabbath. This tablet, this list of "do not's" is a gift so we might be better humans and treat each other with compassion.

Instead, they often get treated as if they were written as hand, feet and heart cuffs intended to restrict and adjure. Perhaps they are more about a way for us to love together and not a rule book to use as a hammer.

The idea that things are made for us and not we for them is a way to think of our buildings. Today is Access Sunday. Winston Churchill once said, "We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us." That's an interesting notion—the idea that buildings create us. If they are not welcoming then we inhabit that inhospitality and bring its philosophy into our own beings. Our interactions do get shaped by the flow and levels and decoration of our buildings, and our buildings learn from us what our needs are. Buildings may become their best when we are willing to refine them and teach them what we have learned.

Our church buildings are gifts from the past and they are often made of stone, which makes them difficult to adapt. But they were made for us and intended to be tools for mission, as the church was built for mission. The United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund (CB&LF) is an affiliated ministry of our denomination, and it is the oldest church building and loan fund in the U.S., going back to 1853. It is their mission to lend financial and advisory support for how we interact with our buildings. Through their loan programs, congregations can get low-cost loans to make their buildings accessible. CB&LF is also available to help churches think through a vision for how to use and adapt their property.

Rev. Jamesetta Ferguson, pastor at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, in Louisville, Kentucky, reached out to the Building and Loan Fund for help. Her church needed extensive rehabilitation and it sat across from a 760-unit public housing complex. In conversation with the Fund, the congregation discerned a larger plan, a greater vision for its ministry and missional use for its property. In addition to rehabilitating their building, St. Peter's built a two-story retail and office building. This property will provide the church with rental income and space to offer ministries and social services to the community. 70% of this 7,000,000 dollar project was funded by the CB&LF. Our property and buildings are gifts to us. We are not owned by them. Our buildings can learn from us.

Barna Group “State of the Bible” 2015 Research

- 88% of Americans have a copy of the Bible in their homes. But, very few actually read it.
- Fewer than half of all adults in America can name the 4 gospels.
- Over 75% of Americans believe that Mark, Luke, and the Apostle Paul were 3 of the 12 disciples.
- 60% of Americans cannot name 5 of the 10 Commandments
- 82% of Americans think that “God helps those who help themselves” is a Bible verse
- 65% of Americans think that Samson and Hercules are both in the Bible.

A note about today’s offertory

“I wrote this symphony as my dissertation marking the end of 10 years of school. It was both a mantra for the transition from student to professional and how to deal with the world when things become too frustrating, too angering, and too upsetting. I wish coming to terms with all of those things was as easy as writing a piece but many times it isn’t. Walt Whitman’s words remind that it’s often hard, rarely easy, but still always worth it. This is my offering for this week.”

-Joseph Kern



The Sunday Crier

October 8, 2017

Jim Cosgrove Book Signing Today. Our own Jim Cosgrove – Mr. Stinky Feet – is signing copies of his new book, "Everybody Gets Stinky Feet," today in the narthex between services and after the 10:15 a.m. service. Jim is donating 50 percent of the profit from the books he sells today to the Colonial Church operating fund. Stop by to purchase your copy of this delightful collection of essays on parenting and growing up in Kansas City and to say hello to Jim. Books are \$15.

Rummage Sale Information. The Colonial Rummage Sale is rapidly approaching (Oct. 17-20) so get your donations ready. Start collecting your items and remember hangers—we find that clothing is much more profitable if it is clean, wrinkle-free and on hangers. In addition to items, we need your help. Pick up a flyer in the narthex for donation guidelines

Sale Item Drop off Dates and Times - Donations accepted at the lower level entrance.
Today – 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 12 – 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 13 – 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 14 – 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 15 – 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Monetary Donations—We are also accepting donations to help defray the cost of advertising and food for volunteers. Any amount is accepted. Mark your check payable to Colonial Women. **Volunteers**—We need people to help. Please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/colonial-rummage17>

March of Solidarity for Immigration Rights. Join us at Colonial at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 14 as we gather to walk to Village Presbyterian Church for a prayer vigil to support our area's immigrant community. Presented by Village Presbyterian, Colonial Church and Grandview Park Presbyterian Church.

*Altar
Flowers*

The beautiful flowers on the altar are given by LIN VAUGHN AND FAMILY in memory of John Vaughn.

Participate in Thursday Noon Bible Study from Your Home or Office. Our Bible Study is now online! To participate, each Thursday at noon either go to <https://zoom.us/j/684548229> on your computer or call in at 646-558-8656 with meeting ID 684-548-229. In October, we are beginning a special study on Paul's letter to the Romans to honor the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. To sign up to get the lesson in advance, express your interest at <https://goo.gl/bKLAZa>.

Writers Group. The Colonial Writers Group will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11 in the Heritage Room. Everyone is invited.

Dialogue Institute Invitation to Brunch. You still have time to join in The Dialogue Institute of the Southwest brunch on Saturday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the institute (4215 Shawnee Drive, Kansas City, Kansas). Vern Barnett, founder of the Kansas City Interfaith Council, will speak on "The Healing Power of World Religions." Do not miss this unique time to hear an interesting speaker, strengthen friendships and enjoy a delicious meal. RSVP by signing the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or online at <http://tinyurl.com/dialogue-brunch>

Colonial Friends to Redrock Canyon Grill. We have decided to try something different this year. Every other month Colonial Friends will do lunch only. In October, we are going to the Redrock Canyon Grill, 13505 Metcalf (southeast corner of Metcalf and 135th St). Be there Wednesday, October 25, at 11:15 a.m. A room on the west side has been reserved. Please RSVP to Bill and Sharon Yohn (hohum2@comcast.net).

Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate. The Justice and Witness Committee is offering a selection of Fair Trade chocolate bars and ground coffee for purchase today following the 10:15 service.

Colonial's 7th Annual Holiday Bazaar. Colonial's 7th Annual Holiday Bazaar is November 11 and 12. This event opens our doors to the community by offering gift ideas, warm food and a sweet treat! Plus 10% of all sales go to the Board of Outreach. We are still looking for a volunteer or two for the following activities: planning, advertising, placing of signs and table set-up. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time. If interested in helping, contact Heather in the office, Kim Mann (kim@mannmadedesign.com) or Lisarae Turnbull (lisaraephoto@me.com).

Colonial Women Activities

- **Blue Moose Tuesday.** Tuesday, October 10, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Village.
 - **Coffee.** Monday, November 6, 9:30 a.m., Big Biscuit
 - **Book Group.** Friday, November 10, 7:00 p.m., Stacey Algren's home.
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The Week Ahead**TODAY, October 8**

8:30 am—Worship

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

9:15—Living the Questions, Cambridge Room

10:15—Worship

10:30—Sunday School

11:15—Jim Cosgrove Book Signing, Narthex

11:15—Coffee & Conversation, Heritage Room

11:30 am-2:30 pm—Rummage Sale Donation Drop-off, Social Hall

TUESDAY, October 10

9:30 am—Book Group, Heritage Room

5:30 pm—Colonial Women Blue Moose Tuesday, Prairie Village Shops

WEDNESDAY, October 11

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

9:30 am—Writers Group, Heritage Room

7:00 pm—Colonial Choir, Founders Chapel

THURSDAY, October 12

12:00 pm—Bible Study

3:00-7:00pm—Rummage Sale Drop-Off, Social Hall

6:30 pm—AA, Oberlin Room

FRIDAY, October 13

9:00 am-5:00 pm—Rummage Sale Drop-Off, Social Hall

Saturday, October 14

9:00 am-3:00 pm—Rummage Sale Drop-Off, 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, 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, bulletin and study guide 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)