

**Christ Congregational Church**

*United Church of Christ*

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Web site: www.christcongregationalucc.org

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Interim Minister

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

*Our Vision: A church that listens, praises God, inspires, and serves others.*

February 16, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.

***Sixth Sunday after Epiphany***

***Preparation for Worship:***

"When people get to invent their own gods, they invent easy gods that demand very little." *Steve Bruce, 20th century*



*Please stand, if it is comfortable for you to do so, where the \* indicates.*

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES WE REMEMBER GOD IS WITH US

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP (*Please sign the red fellowship pads at the end of each pew*)

\*PASSING THE PEACE (*Greet those around you in a way that is comfortable for you – you might say “The Peace of Christ be with you,” or “God loves you and so do I.”*)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The Law of Moses says:

“You can have life or death. Which will you choose?”

**People: We choose life.**

L: Obey the commandments of the Holy One, your God, loving God, and walking in God’s ways, and you will grow.”

**P: We choose to grow.**

L: The Law of Moses says:

If you turn to your own ways, you will perish.

**P: We choose God’s ways.**

L: The Law of Moses interpreted by Jesus says:

“Love God above all and love your neighbor as yourself.”

**All: We choose to walk that talk. Amen.**



PRAYER OF QUIET (*Open your heart to the movement of God's Holy Spirit*)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*all together*) *We join our hearts together as we pray:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

DEDICATION OF OUR LIVES AS GRATEFUL STEWARDS - Pastor Candy

Give away yourself and your resources, so you can grow.

Give away your beauty and your energy, so your neighbor can grow.

Give away your love and hope, so that this church can grow.

Give, as you have been given.

MUSICAL OFFERING "Love is The Answer" by Raymond R. Hannisian

\*Presentation of our Gifts with Praise (NCH, No. 780)

**Praise God, who gives us all we have.**

**Praise Christ, whose life calls us to give.**

**Praise Holy Spirit, power for good.**

**These gifts we bring to thank our God. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

**These gifts are our fruit, O God of all fields.**

**Each giver has made the choice between life and death, blessings and  
curses. We choose blessing. We choose life.**

**May God's promises be fulfilled through the harvest of God's garden in  
these our gifts.**

**HYMN: "Lord, I Want To Be a Christian" (NCH, No. 454)**

**MESSAGE: "Choices" Pastor Candy Thomas**

**\*GOING FORTH SONG: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" (NCH, No. 82)**

**\*SENDING FORTH WITH GOD'S BLESSING**

**\*THE POSTLUDE**



**Liturgist: Anita Smith**  
**Next Week's Liturgist: Stacey Canali**  
**Today's Ushers: Barbara & Jon Beisenherz**  
**Next Week's Ushers: Joan Campagna & Hermes Morell**  
**Nursery Attendant: Lorrie LeGrand**  
**Sunday School Teacher: Graham Bryan**

*The lovely flowers gracing the altar this morning are given by  
Karen Kett in honor of Sean's 27<sup>th</sup> Birthday!*

***Welcome to Everyone!***

*Whoever or whatever brought you to worship this morning, we believe that the Spirit of God had a hand in your coming. We hope that you feel the Holy Spirit in our service of prayer and praise. At Christ Congregational Church we strive to love one another as God has loved us and welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. Therefore, we are an **Open and Affirming** church, loving and welcoming all people in all of God's variety; including racial, ethnic, and economic diversity, gender diversity and expression, sexual orientation, and physical and mental abilities. Please introduce yourself after worship and join us for refreshments in the Kelsey Building.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We thank **The Trustees** for providing the refreshments today, and **The Women's Group** for providing them next Sunday.

**Prime Time Adult Discussion Group** meets Sunday mornings at **9:30 a.m.** The study is on the book, "**How the Bible Actually Works**" by Peter Enns.

**NURSERY CARE** is available for **infants and toddlers** during worship. All children are welcome in worship, parents should feel free to use the nursery any time your child becomes uncomfortable. An usher can help you find the nursery.

**Faith Education classes** are normally offered for all children during the **10:30 a.m.** worship hour. Children are encouraged to begin worship with their parents. There is a special time for all children with the pastor on the front steps. After that the children may go to a class held in the Kelsey Building.

It's **Blanket the World in Love** month! The **UCC's Church World Services** collects **\$10 per blanket and distributes them throughout the US and world.** Donations can be made with your plate donation or in the Kelsey building. Identify your name, amount, and a sentiment in honor or in memory of, if you choose. **For each blanket donated, please choose a Heart (in Kelsey and back of chapel) and pin it on our Chapel blanket.**

**There will be NO Bible Study tomorrow, Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day. The church office will also be closed.**

**MARDI GRAS SUNDAY is February 23<sup>rd</sup>! On this final Sunday before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday we will have a New Orleans-style lunch after worship with jambalaya, corn muffins, and King Cake. The youth who finds the special coin in the cake will be named Keeper of the Alleluia. Together we will put the Alleluia away for Lent. Plan to be present and invite friends and family!**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Plan to be present to receive the imposition of ashes.**

**The Church Council wants to thank those members who have offered to share their time and talents on various boards and committees at our church. We currently have 1 unfilled vacancy on Mission Outreach and 1 unfilled vacancy on the Board of Christian Ed. I invite those of you who are not already in a formal role on one of our boards or committees to prayerfully consider filling one of these vacancies.**

**Please see, call or email Lorrie if you decide that serving on Outreach or Christian Ed would work for you.**

**On Sunday, March 1st, we will install all of our board and committee board members into their roles during our 10:30am worship service. Please join us as we pray with our church leaders and welcome them into their 2020 positions.**

**Prayer List: Mark Harrison, Philip Thompson, Natalie Thompson, Javier Pantoja, Kathy Radkiewicz, Shai & Cedric Murphy, Jennifer Best Vickers, Bennie Wiley, The family of Mark Krumich, The family of Dr. Carey Green, Caleb Elkins, Anita Smith, Travis Smith, Maggie McDowell, Gloria Fuller, Amelia Canali, Wendy Olson, Georgina Mori, Deena and Herbert Chamberlin, Sarah Miller, Bill McDowell.**

**Please let Michelle, our Administrative Assistant, know if there are names you'd like to have added to the Prayer List. She may be e-mailed at or call her at 305-235-9381. Thanks be to God for prayers answered and for comfort given!**

For **Pastoral Care Needs**, such as entering the hospital, suffering a crisis, or just want to speak to someone about a personal, spiritual or emotional matter:  
 Call **Pastor Candy** at **925-640-9289** or you may call or leave a message at the **Church Office, 305-235-9381, Monday-Friday, from 9:30 a.m –2:30 p.m.**and our Office Administrative Assistant, **Michelle Simone**, will assist you in reaching **Pastor Candy**. **When the office is closed** you may call the Board of Deacons Chairperson, **Jim Ketzle**, at **305-495-4452** and he will be able to help you. For **Use of Property Needs** or if you identify a Maintenance Concern call the Board of Trustees Chairperson, **Julio Balcells, 305-282-7882**. For **Other General Questions** or Needs call the Church President/Moderator, **Lorrie LeGrand, 305-978-3801**.

**CALENDAR February 16 - February 23, 2020**

- Sun. 16** 8:45 a.m. Garden Chapel Worship with *Holy Communion*
- 9:30 a.m. Prime time Adult Discussion Group, Kelsey Library
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary (Faith classes for children)
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Child Care for children under 6 years old)
- 11:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting, Kelsey Hall
- Mon. 17** 6:00 p.m. **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED/NO BIBLE STUDY**
- Thu. 20** 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting, Kelsey Hall
- Sun. 23** 8:45 a.m. Garden Chapel Worship with *Holy Communion*
- 9:30 a.m. Prime time Adult Discussion Group, Kelsey Library
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary (Faith classes for children)
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Child Care for children under 6 years old)
- 11:45 a.m. Mardi Gras Lunch and Celebration

