

**Christ Congregational Church**

*United Church of Christ*

14920 S. W. 67 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, FL 33158

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The Rev. Candace Thomas, Interim Minister

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

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

February 9, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.

***Fifth Sunday after Epiphany***

**Racial Justice Sunday**

**Science and Technology Sunday**

***Preparation for Worship:***

"The thing about light is that it really isn't yours; it's what you gather and shine back. And it gets more power from reflectiveness; if you sit still and take it in, it fills your cup, and then you can give it off yourself."

*and*

"Lighthouses don't go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining."

*Anne Lamott, Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*



*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: To disciples, then and now, Jesus has said, "You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and glorify your Parent who is in heaven."

**People: We have come together to be community, to receive light, and to be light. To this end we dedicate ourselves.**

L: We have come together to be windows through which, instructed and illuminated by God, we might see the world more clearly.

**P: We have come to be windows through which the world might know the light and love of God. To this end we will praise and magnify God.**

**\* PRAISE BAND SELECTIONS**

Praise Songs

**\*THE COMMANDMENT OF JESUS (*John 15:5, 12*)**

*I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

*Yo soy la vid, ustedes son las ramas. Los que permanecen en mí y yo en ellos dan mucho fruto, porque aparte de mí no pueden hacer nada. "este es mi mandamiento, que se amen unos a otros como yo los he amado.*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

*Matthew 5:13-20*

**NRSV**

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**You are our light, O God. In your presence our lives are illumined, our way becomes clearer. Our own light comes from you: Like small candles lit from the Christ candle on Christmas Eve, we are able to shine with love and hope because you love us and give us reason to hope. Yet, we confess to you, O God, that we often hide our light under bushel. Not trusting our perceptions, we do not share our truth with others. Not trusting our abilities, we do not risk sharing our gifts in community. Not trusting our skills in relationships, we do not reach out in friendship, we do not raise issues which should be raised, and we do not break the silence of anger to give or seek forgiveness. Help us to trust in you where we cannot trust ourselves. Radiate through us with your holy love and wisdom, healing the hurts of the past, giving us courage for the future. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who came to reveal your light to the world. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON—Pastor**

**PRAYER SONG: “More Love to You, O Christ” (NCH, No. 456)**

**More love to you, O Christ, more love to you!**

**Hear now the prayer I make faith to renew. In all I say and do, more love, O Christ, to you, more love to you, more love to you.**

*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**

Christ calls us to let our lives and our work—salty, bright, and good—give witness to the reign of God in our midst. Let us generously offer our gifts of time, talent and treasure, that the glory of God may be recognized and celebrated in our world.

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**“There’s a Place in the World for a Gambler”**

**by Dan Fogelberg**

\*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)**

**O God, please take these gifts and multiply them;**

**let them be a means to create the justice and peace**

**you long for in this world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**HYMN: "God of Change and Glory" (NCH, No. 177 )**

**MESSAGE: "Shining In Palmetto Bay" Pastor Candy Thomas**

**\*GOING FORTH SONG: "This Little Light of Mine" (NCH, No. 525)**

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

**\*THE POSTLUDE**



**Liturgist: Andy Godley**

**Next Week's Liturgist: Antonia Godley-Juarez**

**Today's Ushers: Frank Tirb & Bill McDowell**

**Next Week's Ushers: Barbara & Jon Beisenherz**

**Nursery Attendant: Margarita Morell**

**Sunday School Teacher: Judy Carlson**

*The lovely flowers gracing the altar this morning are given  
by Joan Chandler in honor of her daughter's 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 **Outreach** for providing the refreshments today, and **The Trustees** 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.

**CONGRATUALIONS TO CHRISTINE AND ALAN GUEVARRA** who were married here in our Sanctuary yesterday! Please welcome them and their family and friends who are in worship with us this morning.

The **Church Council** has reviewed the **open positions** on the various boards and committees and Christ Congregational Church.

*There is a call for nominations of CCC members for the following vacancies:*

**Board of Deacons - 1 position    Board of Christian Education - 1 position**  
**Board of Trustees - 1 position    Mission Outreach - 2 positions**

**If you are interested** in participating on one of the boards or committees, or if you would like to nominate a church member who may be interested, **please see Lorrie LeGrand (moderator) or Graham Bryan (vice moderator) to be added to the list of nominees that will be presented at the Annual Meeting today.**

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!** For those at church this Sunday, we hope you've enjoyed **your mini m&ms!**

**Men of the Church, THIS Wednesday February 12<sup>th</sup>** we are planning a dinner at the **Puerta Vallarta Mexican Seafood Restaurant, located at 24811 S. Dixie Highway.** We'll meet at **6:30p.m.** for conversation and fellowship. Please let Jim Ketzle or Wally Carlson know if you plan to come.

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

**Prayer List: The family of Donna Lane, Lonnie, 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 9 - February 16, 2020**

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|----------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Sun. 9</b>  | 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.          | CCC Annual Meeting, Sanctuary                         |
| <b>Mon. 10</b> | 6:00 p.m.           | Bible Study, Sanctuary                                |
| <b>Sun. 16</b> | 8:45 a.m.           | Garden Chapel Worship with <i>Holy Communion</i>      |
|                | 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                               |

**Christ Congregational Church will hold its ANNUAL MEETING TODAY following worship. All church members are encouraged to attend this meeting as we discuss the business of the church and approve our financial budget for 2020.**