

**Christ Congregational Church**

*United Church of Christ*

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

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E-mail: christch@bellsouth.net

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.*

March 8, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.

**Second Sunday in Lent**

***International Women's Day***

*Preparation for Worship*

“The work of salvation, in its full sense, is (1) about whole human beings, not merely souls; (2) about the present, not simply the future, and (3) about what God does through us, not merely what God does in and for us.” N.T. Wright, 21<sup>st</sup> 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)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Genesis 12: 1-4a; John 3: 1-17)*

Leader: We are in the presence of God.

Leave the places you have known and walk with God.

Leave behind thoughts of limitation and imagine.

**People: But we are secure where we are.**

L: Ahh, but new ways of being in this world is possible for each of us.

**P: Can't God bless us where we are, and as we are?**

L: If you trust enough to move from the places you have known,  
and question the systems around us, you will be blessed.

**P: God is our light and our salvation. Lord, we open ourselves to you.**

**Direct our paths and open our hearts and minds.**

L: In this place, in every place, for this time, for all time.

**All: Let us worship our God.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE: “Enter, Rejoice, and Come In” (NCH, No. 73)**

**\*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 puedes hacer nada. "este es mi mandamiento, que se amen unos a otros como yo los he amado.*

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

**O God our Creator, your kindness has given us a new morning.**

**Help us to leave yesterday, not be anxious about tomorrow,**

**and appreciate the unique gift of today. Open us to the movement of your Holy**

**Spirit that we may desire to bring new order, new possibility,**

**and new hope in this land, and new life in the depths of our being. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

*John 3:1-17*

**NRSV**

*Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

May we confess, as Jesus did in the wilderness.

Gracious God forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy.

In both we have failed ourselves, and you.

Bring us back to that place where our journey began,  
when we said that we would follow you.

Let us confess together...

#### UNISON CONFESSION

**Holy One, who is able to make all things new,**

**we are thankful for the gift of each day**

**being an opportunity to do better, to be better.**

**We ask forgiveness for wanting new life**

**without being willing to die to old ways of being.**

**Forgive us for doubting that new life, rebirth is possible.**

**Midwife our spirits, that we may be born into a new state of consciousness;  
that we may be born from above.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE-Pastor

Even in our reluctance, even in our brokenness,

God provides a path to wholeness and renewal.

When we confess our shortcomings,

God has mercy on us and is generous with forgiveness.

Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven....and that is good news. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER SONG: "Nothing Can Trouble" (NCH, No. 772)

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten, Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten, God alone fills us.

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  
Let all people give as they are able according to the blessings we have received.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Golden Breaks The Dawn" Chinese Folk Melody  
Arranged by Everett J. Hilty  
Bells: Barbara Parker, Jon Beisenherz, Hermes Morell

\*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)**  
May these gifts indicate our gratitude for our many blessings.  
May the spiritual nourishment we receive today  
strengthen us for continued service. Amen.

**HYMN: "I Am Yours, O Lord" (NCH, No. 455)**

**MESSAGE: "Born Again and Again and Again" Pastor Candy Thomas**

**\*GOING FORTH SONG: "More Love to You, O Christ" (NCH, No. 456)**

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

**\*THE POSTLUDE**



**Liturgist: Jon Beisenherz  
Next Week's Liturgist: Lorrie LeGrand  
Today's Ushers: Joan Campagna & Hermes Morell  
Next Week's Ushers: Jon & Barbara Beisenherz  
Sunday School Teacher: Dr. Emily Balcells**

*The lovely flowers gracing the altar this morning  
are given by Barbara and Jon Beisenherz  
in honor of their four children.*

### ***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 **Christian Education** for providing the refreshments today, and **The Deacons** for providing them next Sunday.

**Men of the Church, please note:** We will be going for Italian food **THIS Wednesday, March 11th**. We are planning to meet at **Romanza's Italian Restaurant** located at 10575 SW 109 Ct (located South of Miami-Dade College off Killian Parkway). As usual, we'll meet at **6:30p.m.** for fellowship and conversation. **If you plan to join us please contact Jim Ketzle or Wally Carlson so that we can make reservations.**

**Church Council will meet this Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in Kelsey Hall.**

**The CCC Women will be conducting a cleanup of the closets in Whitney Hall and the Kelsey Building on Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 A.M.** Anyone who is able to help would be most welcomed!

**NEXT Sunday, March 15th, we will install all of our board and committee board members into their roles during our 10:30a.m. worship service. Please join us as we pray with our church leaders and welcome them into their 2020 positions.**

**JUSTICE LUNCHEON NEXT SUNDAY after worship. Sylvia Heller, Co-Chair, Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Committee, Women's Club of Coconut Grove will be our speaker. She will share information to raise awareness about the scourge of human trafficking in our community. Modern day slavery, or human trafficking, crosses all lines of race, religion, gender and social divides. Victims are crushed mentally, physically and spiritually. The faith-based community can offer a powerful path to healing and recovery.**

**The CCC Women are celebrating our CCC sisters in Christ by sending cards, texts, and calls to those who are celebrating, recuperating, mourning, or struggling. If you would like us to send a card or message to a lady in your life who is celebrating an occasion, mourning a loved one, or needs an uplift, send an email to: **Joan Chandler at bingo123@bellsouth.net** and let us know the occasion.**

**Prayer List: Debra Southerland, The family of Lucas Alvarez, Westminster Christian School staff and students, Jim Ketzle. 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, Bill & Maggie McDowell, Gloria Fuller, Amelia Canali, Wendy Olson, Georgina Mori, Deena and Herbert Chamberlin, Sarah Miller.**

**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 March 8, 2020 to March 15, 2020**

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|----------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Sun. 8</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)           |
|                | 11:45 a.m.          | Outreach Meeting, Kelsey Hall                         |
|                | 12:30 p.m.          | Friends of South Florida Music, Sanctuary             |
|                | 1:30 p.m.           | Evolution of Healing Workshop, Kelsey Hall            |
| <b>Mon. 9</b>  | 6:00 p.m.           | Bible Study, Sanctuary                                |
| <b>Thu. 12</b> | 7:00 p.m.           | Church Council Meeting, Kelsey Hall                   |
| <b>Sat. 14</b> | 10:00 a.m.          | CCC Women closet cleaning, Whitney & Kelsey           |
| <b>Sun. 15</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) |
|                |                     | Installation of Board and Committee Members           |
|                | 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. | (Child Care for children under 6 years old)           |
|                | 11:45 a.m.          | Justice Luncheon, Kelsey Hall                         |