

***Christ Congregational United Church of Christ***  
**14920 S. W. 67 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, FL 33158**  
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**Web site: [www.christcongregationalucc.org](http://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.***

**April 26, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Video Service**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

***Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday***

***Preparation for Worship: "All sorrows are less with bread." Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, 16th century"***



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE, WE REMEMBER GOD IS WITH US

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Travelers on the Way, what shall we do?

**People: We shall praise God**

**who hears our prayers,**

**who draws near to us,**

**and brings new life out of death.**

L: Dear Ones, how shall we live?

**P: With the confidence of God's beloved children,**

**with security and joy of God's saving grace.**

L: Friends old and new, what is the promise?

**P: New life, forgiveness of sin, the Spirit as gift!**

L: Beloved Siblings, how shall we praise?

**P: We lift our voices and our hearts in love, thanks, and praise!**

**We will praise the Lord as long as we live!**

**OPENING HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (NCH, No. 25)**

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne  
Your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting you are God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Fades at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

*\*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.*

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

Loving God, we welcome your living presence in our midst.  
Share our joy and our thanks for the life you give us  
with us! Dance among us! Pray with us!  
Shower us with your love! **Amen!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "Pie Jesu" Gabriel Faure

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:***Luke 24:13-35*

NRSV

*Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS****PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way,  
we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance.  
We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us.  
Yet, sometimes we would cling to you, hoard the blessings of relationship with you,  
and not share your love with others.**

**Forgive us, Dear One.**

**Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world.**

**Press us to share the hope and joy of your love,  
so that someone who hungers for spiritual food  
may be filled by our witness to your grace.**

**Shine the light of your Spirit through us,  
so that we may show your Way those who long for peace  
and help to revive those in whom hope has died. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE- Pastor**

God may come to us, unrecognized, as a stranger.  
The Risen Christ reaches out to us in unexpected ways  
as we travel our own Emmaus roads.  
May the Word of our Still speaking God  
continue to burn in our hearts.

## **PRAYER SONG: "I Need You Every Hour" (NCH, No. 517)**

**I need you every hour, O God of grace;**

**The peace your voice affords, I now embrace.**

**I need you, how I need you! Every hour I need you;**

**O bless me now, my Savior; I come to you.**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Unison*)**

*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***

## **OFFERING THOUGHTS -Pastor**

The author of 1 Peter implores us to love one another deeply *from the heart*,  
and assures us that we have been born anew  
*through the living and enduring word of God.*  
In our giving, let us give, not out of obligation, but *from the heart.*  
Let our gifts be seeds of *the living and enduring word of God.*  
that will sprout in an abundance of justice and hope all that is necessary for life,  
for sisters and brothers here at hand, and around the world.

## **MUSICAL OFFERING: "What Wondrous Love is this?" American Folk Hymn Graham Bryan - Recorder**

**MESSAGE: "Their Eyes Were Opened" Pastor Candy Thomas**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?” (NCH, No. 539)**

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey; we are travelers on the road;  
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.**

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

## COMMISSION:

Friends, rejoice in love of God!  
Rejoice in the victorious life of our Risen Savior!  
Rejoice in the power of the Spirit!  
Go, living in the love of Christ!  
Go, serving in the name of Christ!  
Let your love of God embrace  
Your children  
Your family  
Your enemies  
Those who are afar off  
Those who are strangers met on the road  
May your lives praise the Lord!

## BENEDICTION



### ***Welcome to Everyone!***

*Whoever or whatever brought you to our on-line worship service this morning, we believe that the Spirit of God had a hand in you joining us. I 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*

***Dear Church,***

***During this time of pandemic while the governor's "Stay at Home" order is in effect; I am live-streaming worship from my living room on our Facebook page Christ Congregational United Church of Christ @christcongregationalchurch. Our web page offers a link to our Facebook page. I hope you'll join me! We want to stay connected with each other. You will continue to receive the weekly e-newsletter and our web page is also a source of information. Please let me know if you need help with anything. I am only a phone call, text, or email away.***

***God Bless You!***

***Pastor Candy***

**JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please let me know of any joys or concerns you’d like lifted up in worship by notifying me by Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. via phone, text or email.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WILL CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER NEXT SUNDAY. Please plan to have bread or crackers and juice ready at your home.**

**Just a reminder that there is a green link at the bottom of our newsletter called “Give Online Today”. Please be sure to use it if you are able or send your check to the office. In this pandemic time, it is preferable that you use the online method. If you choose to mail your check into the church office Michelle will call or email you to let you know that it has been received.**

**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: The Avina family, For Margarita Morell, her Mother and Sister, All medical professionals and first responders, Jessica Shuffitowski,, Suzanne Wood, The family of Lucas Alvarez, Westminster Christian School staff and students, Jim Ketzle, Philip and 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, Deena and Herbert Chamberlin, Sarah Miller, Connor Thomas, Caprice Di Lielloc, Margarita Padilla, Dr. Larry Luy.**

**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, please 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 April 26, 2020 to May 3, 2020**

<b>Sun. 26</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship Service</b>
<b>Sun. 3</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship Service</b>