

*Christ Congregational United Church of Christ*  
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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.*

May 31, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

**Pentecost Sunday**

*Strengthen the Church Offering*

**Video Service**

Preparation for Worship: *“Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.”*

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE, WE REMEMBER GOD IS WITH US

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Fling wide the doors! Open the windows! Let the Spirit of God pour in!

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

L: Ignite within us a passion to live and share our faith!

**P: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

L: Be the fuel for our faith. Inspire us with a bold courage, to act, to heal, and to work for justice. Launch us into a life of service.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Amen!**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "Fill Me Now" (No. 153, HFG)**

**Hover o'er me, Holy Spirit, Bathe my trembling heart and brow;**

**Fill me with Thy hallowed presence, Come, O Come and fill me now.**

**Fill me now, fill me now, Jesus come and fill me now;**

**Fill me with Thy hallowed presence—Come, O come and fill me now.**

**Thou canst not fill me; gracious Spirit, Though I cannot tell Thee how;**

**But I need Thee, greatly need Thee, Come, O come and fill me now;**

**Fill me now, fill me now, Jesus, come and fill me now;**

**Fill me with Thy hallowed presence—Come, O come and fill me now.**

**I am weakness, full of weakness, At Thy sacred feet I bow;**

**Blest, divine, eternal Spirit, Fill with power, and fill me now.**

**Fill me now, fill me now, Jesus, come and fill me now;**

**Fill me with Thy hallowed presence—Come, O come and fill me now.**

**Cleanse and comfort, bless and save me, Bathe, O bathe my heart and brow;**

**Thou art comforting and saving, Thou art sweetly filling now.**

**Fill me now, fill me now, Jesus come and fill me now;**

**Fill me with Thy hallowed presence—Come, O come and fill me now.**

**\*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)**

**Gather us in as those who want to know you more deeply, Holy Spirit. Speak to us in ways that reach each heart and mind. Light the fires of your life in us, then scatter us into the world as bearers of your sacred word, and of a joy that cannot be restrained. Encircle us with your grace and gather in all that we have received and become, we pray. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC      “Holy Spirit Rain Down”      Russell Frager

SCRIPTURE LESSON:      Acts 2:1-21      NRSV

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

**PRAYER SONG: "Spirit of the Living God" (No. 283, NCH)**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me: (2x)**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

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 gifts we present to you, O God, are only tokens of the blessings you have showered on our lives, as many as stars in the sky. All that we have belongs to you. Help us to live to serve you day by day in all that we do. We offer our gifts and pray that they may indeed strengthen your church!

**MUSICAL OFFERING: "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing!"**  
**Arr. Anthony Giamanco Traditional Spiritual**

**MESSAGE: "Waiting to Exhale" Pastor Candy Thomas**

**Communion Hymn: "I Come with Joy" (No. 349, NCH)**

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free.**

**The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed. The new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.**

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

INVITATION

L: From the Beginning, followers of Christ have broken bread together.

**P: Gathered at tables fancy and simple, sharing wafers or full meals.**

L: In this era of pandemic and separation we continue to gather together.

**P: Sitting in our homes, with our own supplies, but linked together by the bits and bytes and cables.**

L: The meal we share is hosted by the God who meets us where we are. And so all who seek to live by the values of God's Kingdom are welcome to join as we eat together, from a distance.

**P: Let us break bread together in our homes.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Feel the wind of God blow in your lives.

**P: Refreshing us, bringing in new air.**

L: We offer God, who is in our every breath, our prayers

**P: With the breath of God in us we share our fears, our hopes, our dreams, our thanks.**

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

**We have broken the bread, we have poured the drink, we have shared a meal together. Even while we remain physically separated, we have been united in our souls. May this meal we share with each other and with the whole Christian family across the centuries and miles change who we are. May it feed the fire in our bellies. May it strengthen us when the storms blow through. And now, as we continue to live as people who have had the Holy Spirit breathed onto and into us, may we love and serve God, our neighbor, and ourselves. So that the Kingdom of Love is made real in our lives. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” (No. 282, NCH)**

**CHORUS: Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.**

- 1. Upon the mountain my God spoke, out of God’s mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all around me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.**
- 2. Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold. It chills the body, not the soul. There’s only one train on this track; it runs to heaven, then right back.**

## **COMMISSION**

May the fire of the Holy Spirit warm your heart; may the wind of Pentecost inspire your soul; may the tongue of the Spirit give your faith new voice; may you see visions, dream dreams, and may you be prophets, sensing where the word of God is needed and being unafraid to speak and live for Christ.

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**



### ***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 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 will 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 Pastor Candy know of any joys or concerns you would like lifted up in worship by notifying me by Thursday evening via phone, text or email.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY IS PENTECOST** when we celebrate the birthday of the Christian church! The Strengthen the Church offering will be received TODAY.

**WE WILL SHARE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER TODAY. PLEASE HAVE BREAD/CRACKERS AND JUICE HANDY.**

**ONLINE GIVING** - We invite you to use our online giving option as a quick, simple and secure method to make your pledges and any ancillary contributions. **Clicking on the “Give Online Today” button at the bottom of this newsletter, or going to our church website at [christcongregationalucc.org](http://christcongregationalucc.org) and clicking “online giving”** will bring you to the secured Moon Clerk site which will allow you to enter your credit card information. Please note that our electronic contributions go through multiple layers of security for processing. We have been made aware that Moon Clerk transactions may show up as going to “Emerging Market”. Please note that we have looked into this and can ensure you that this is the name for the card processor and is legitimate. At this time, we are working with our web designer and host to make security enhancements to our website. This will not have any impact on your ability to make donations online.

**DONATIONS:** Please stipulate when your giving is other than pledge or plate by letting Judy Carlson or Michelle Simone know!

**THERE WILL BE A ZOOM FELLOWSHIP SHARING TIME AFTER WORSHIP TODAY HOSTED BY JOAN CHANDLER.**

**Topic: CCC Fellowship Time**

**Time: May 31, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**To Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2868326251?pwd=dHIDWGtMZDBLSm1iWEZoMEl3bWIydz09>**

**Meeting ID: 286 832 6251**

**Password: 287563**

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 family of Izzy Mae Best-Cowdry, Oliver Hynes, Jakey Duque, Tom Anderson, The Avina family, For Margarita Morell, her mother and sister, All medical professionals and first responders, Suzanne Wood, The family of Lucas Alvarez, Westminster Christian School staff and students, 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 Liello, Margarita Padilla, Dr. Larry Luy, The people of Ghana, The family of Jairo Maltez.**

**Please let Michelle, our Administrative Assistant, know if there are names, you would 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 May 31, 2020 to June 6, 2020**

<b>Sun. 31</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship Service</b>
	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Zoom Fellowship time</b>
	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Board of C.E. meeting</b>
<b>Sun. 6</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship Service</b>

