

Christ Congregational United Church of Christ
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Web site: www.christcongregationalucc.org

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Interim Minister

Jay Harrigan, Director of Music

Daniel D. Best, Liturgist

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

August 2, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Video Service

Preparation for Worship: “People ask me: ‘Why do you write about food, and eating, and drinking? Why don’t you write about the struggle for power and security, and about love, the way the others do?’... The easiest answer is to say that, like most other humans, I am hungry.” M.F.K. Fisher, 20th century



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: We have heard about Jesus, a poor man whose banquet feeds the world, a healer whose wounds give life, a teacher whose wisdom traces love’s order in the world, feeding the divine in each of us.

People: We have heard how Jesus died, and for those who loved him, how he rose again.

L: We have heard about the Holy Spirit, who breaks the bonds of race and class, of gender and creed, to show God’s love for everyone.

P: And we have heard that love makes all things new. We come to Christ’s table today asking for the bread of such blessings.

All: These miracles begin with simple human gestures, bits of bread in a basket, tongues that talk, souls that yearn. And so we bring bread and wine, prayers and our own yearning, that the miraculous may begin in us today.

***OPENING HYMN: “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer” (No. 18, NCH)**

**1. Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

**2. Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.**

**3. When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on heaven’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.**

***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)

**God, you see us. You see our struggles. You see our difficulties.
You see our possibilities. You see our promise. Connect the dots for us, O
God. Soften the hard spots with your blessing.
Call us in our wandering to hear you say our names. Satisfy our longings as
with loaves and fishes and manna from heaven.
For you are a good God, a God present in the all our days,
And in the end, you always, always have a blessing. For this and so much
more, we give you thanks, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Like a River Glorious” John Purifoy

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Matthew 14:13-21

NRSV

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO CONFESSION-Pastor

Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

We have promised to live as your people, God. Yet, we confess that we fail you and one another. We do not love one another as we should. As the body of Christ, we do not work together as one to help your kingdom come. We refuse your cry for help in the voices of the poor and hungry. We have not been faithful to the trust you have placed in us.

Merciful God, receive us as we are, and forgive us. Encourage us with your love. Help us commit ourselves anew to live as those who belong to you; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we learn that God's love has no bounds. In Christ we are forgiven and are empowered to begin anew. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

God of increase and bounty, Source of all good things:

we offer these gifts as a portion of that which you have given us.

May these gifts be as loaves and fishes

for those who find themselves in poverty or hunger. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING “You’ve Got a Friend” Carole King

MESSAGE: “Fish and Loaves” Pastor Candy Thomas

Communion Hymn: “As We Gather at Your Table” (No. 332, NCH)

**1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s victory known.**

**2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive us as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**3. Gracious spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING AND POURING

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. 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.

Dear Church,

During this time of pandemic, we are now live-streaming worship from our Christ Congregational United Church of Christ Sanctuary on our Facebook page @christcongregationalchurch. Our web page offers a link to our Facebook page. I hope you will join us! 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 Sunday morning at 10 a.m. via phone, text or email.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY WE WILL SHARE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER VIRTUALLY. PLEASE HAVE ELEMENTS SYMBOLIZING BREAD AND WINE HANDY.

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

FELLOWSHIP TIME ON ZOOM AT NOON TODAY. Plan to be present and catch up with your church family!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2868326251?pwd=dHIDWGtMZDBLSm1iWEZoMEl3bWIydz09>

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2868326251?pwd=dHIDWGtMZDBLSm1iWEZoMEl3bWIydz09>

Meeting ID: 286 832 6251

Passcode: 287563

One tap mobile

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

TODAY- Sunday, August 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Emily Balcells will lead ZOOM discussion of Trevor Noah's autobiography Born a Crime for our youth. The full audiobook is available for free on YouTube in both youth and adult versions.

The Women's Group will have also have a book discussion on Trevor Noah's autobiography Born A Crime, on Saturday, August 15th at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. The book review is open to all. You are encouraged to invite guests!

Christian Education will hold their meeting via ZOOM on August 9 @ 12:30 p.m.

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

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 and clicking "online giving" will bring you to the secured Moon Clerk site which will allow you to enter your credit card information.

Please let Michelle, our Administrative Assistant, know if there are names on the Prayer List that should continue to be listed beyond Sunday, July 5. She may be e-mailed at christch@bellsouth.net or call her at 305-235-9381. The list will be updated in an effort to be current. We will also add names, per your requests, in the months ahead. Thanks be to God for prayers answered and for comfort given!

Prayer List: Rhonda Johnstone Cepedes, The Family of Ray Radkiewicz, Lauren Kline, Heath Rosenbaum, Jim Ketzle, Margarita Morell's sister, All medical professionals and first responders, Bill & Maggie McDowell, Gloria Fuller, Wendy Olson, Connor Thomas, Dolly Bryan.

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 August 2 to August 9, 2020

Sun. 2	10:30 a.m.	Video Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sun. 2	Noon	Zoom Fellowship meeting
Sun. 2	6:30 p.m.	Zoom Book discussion, Dr. Emily Balcells
Sun. 9	10:30 a.m.	Video Worship Service
Sun. 9	12:30 p.m.	Zoom Christian Education meeting

