

*Christ Congregational United Church of Christ*  
14920 S. W. 67 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, FL 33158  
305-235-9381, Fax 305-238-4801  
E-mail: christch@bellsouth.net  
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.*

July 26, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Preparation for Worship: “We live not so much in optimism that thinks we can fix everything, but out of the hope that God is in charge of everything, and we are simply called to participate in what God is doing in the world.” Rev. Kate Huey



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like:  
A tiny mustard seed that carries the life of a tree.

**People: The kingdom of heaven is like:  
A tiny portion of yeast that makes bread rise.**

L: The kingdom of heaven is like:  
A tiny pearl of great price that we would give all our “stuff” to have.

**P: The kingdom of heaven is like:  
A fishing boat filled with catch—good and bad together—  
With fisherfolk wise to recognize the good.**

**All: In this time together, please teach us more about your kingdom, O God,  
and show us how we can find it in our everyday lives. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "This is My Father's World"**

**(No. 6, HFG)**

**This is my Father's world; And to my listening ears,  
All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world; The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world; Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king; let the heavens ring. God reigns; let the earth be glad.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Holy One,  
you call us to find your kingdom  
already hidden in our world—  
in tiny, transforming possibilities;  
in beauty that calls us to surrender all;  
in complicated choices that call for wisdom.  
Reveal yourself here in this moment  
And heighten our senses that we may find you  
And join you in building this kingdom of love, and hope, and peace.  
In the name of the One who calls us to seek,**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "Rock of Ages" arranged by Robert Wetzler**

**\*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.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52* NRSV

*He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

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

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

**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

God calls us to seek and find the hints of the Kingdom in our world,  
and to nurture its growth among us.  
We will use our gifts, tithes and offerings to rebuild the body of Christ.

Grow our gifts in your love O God.  
Bless our offerings, our hearts and our hopes in your love  
To make us worthy of your work for your Kingdom in heaven,  
And among us here, even now.  
Fill our gifts and each of us with your goodness. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING: “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” J.S. Bach

MESSAGE: “Ruth and the Kingdom of God” Pastor Candy Thomas

CLOSING HYMN: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (No. 82, NCH)

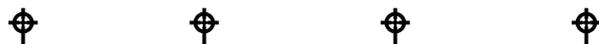
Go my children, with my blessing, never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever,  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

COMMISSION

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, 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**

**HOLY COMMUNION** Next Sunday. Please have bread/crackers and juice available at home so that we can commune together virtually.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME ON ZOOM AT NOON ON AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>**. Plan to be present and catch up with your church family!

On Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. The book review is open. You are encouraged to invite guests!

**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](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 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](mailto: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: 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 July 26 to August 2, 2020**

<b>Sun. 26</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship Service</b>
<b>Wed. 29</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom meeting with SSOM</b>
<b>Thus. 30</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Council/Trustees meeting</b>
<b>Sun. 2</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship Service with Holy Communion</b>

