

*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 Harrigan, Director of Music

Daniel D. Best, Liturgist

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

July 5, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Video Service

Preparation for Worship: “Our flag is red, white, and blue, but our nation is a rainbow—red, yellow, brown, black, and white—and we’re all precious in God’s sight.” The Rev. Jesse Jackson



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Come to Christ, all who are weary. Gather together, all who carry heavy burdens.

**People: Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.**

L: Bless God, who is revealed more clearly to infants than to those considered intelligent and wise,

**P: Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, who rescues us from sin and death.**

L: Seek the renewal of your spirits; delight in God’s law in your inmost selves.

**All: Praise God for all who live in awe, for all tho seek to do God’s will.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command”  
(No. 592 NCH)**

**God of the ages, who with sure command  
Brought forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

**Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;  
God set our path toward human liberty.  
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay—  
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

**From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
with steadfast care be ever our defense;  
Your love and faith within our hearts increase;  
With bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh your people on life’s toilsome way;  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
With truth and love guide us through error’s maze,  
And we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.**

**\*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)

**Come to us, Holy One,  
And immerse us in the beauty of life with you!  
Come to us, Holy One,  
And enliven our community with the intensity of your love  
Come to us, Holy One,  
And embolden our community with the urgency  
of your justice  
in the name of the One who calls us to play and to work in community,  
Jesus, our beloved.**

SPECIAL MUSIC            “Waltz in C# minor”            F. Chopin

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:        *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*            NRSV

*“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”*

*At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)**

*Eugene Peterson's translation of Romans 7: 15-25 in **The Message** offers a classic confession of our human struggle against sin:*

Leader: I know that all God's commands are spiritual,

**People: but I'm not.**

L: I decide one way,

**P: but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise.**

L: I decide to do good,

**P: but I don't *really* do it;**

L: I decide not to do bad,

**P: but then I do it anyway**

L: I truly delight in God's commands

**P: But the power of sin sabotages my best intentions**

L: My decisions to good don't result in actions:

**P: Sin is there to trip me up.**

L: I've tried everything ...

**P: Who can help me?**

### **Words of Assurance-Pastor**

**The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does help us.**

**He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions**

**where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind,**

**but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.**

**He calls us: Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened.**

**I will share your yoke and make it light;**

**I will lead in the Way you desire to travel. 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**

In thanks for all we have received and for the privilege of sharing, we gratefully bring our tithes and offerings. We offer ourselves with our gifts, that right and truth may prevail throughout your world. Amen.

**MUSICAL OFFERING “Gentle Shepherd” Gloria & William Gaither**

**MESSAGE: “Rest That Renews” Pastor Candy Thomas**

**Communion Hymn: “Let Us Break Bread Together” (No. 330, NCH)**

**Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees,  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees;  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.**

**Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.**

## 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.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (No. 593, NCH)**

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise,  
High as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
Come to the place for which our people sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
God who has brought us thus far on the way;  
God, who by your might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,  
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, forget you.  
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.**

## COMMISSION

**Greet the world with refreshed spirits; go to lift burdens, as yours have been lifted. God dwells with you and strengthens you; God multiplies your energy and influence. Go out to listen and to testify. Open yourself to the wisdom of children. Receive Christ's easy yoke and light burden. Go with God. Amen.**

## 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. 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.*

### ***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!

**THE ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME WILL TAKE PLACE TODAY AT NOON. IN THE FUTURE THESE ZOOM SHARING TIME VIDEO CALLS WILL USUALLY OCCUR ON THE FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH. THANKS TO JOAN CHANDLER FOR MODERATING! PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BELOW.**

**Topic: CCC FELLOWSHIP**

**Time: Jul 5, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

**Meeting ID: 286 832 6251**

**Password: 287563**

**One tap mobile**

**+19292056099,,2868326251#,,,,0#,,287563# US (New York)**

**+13017158592,,2868326251#,,,,0#,,287563# US (Germantown)**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

**Meeting ID: 286 832 6251**

**Password: 287563**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbTWiVpidu>**

**The church office will be closed TOMORROW, July 6<sup>th</sup> in observance of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.**

**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.**

**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 has been 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: Heath Rosenbaum, Jim Ketzle, Margarita Morell’s sister, All medical professionals and first responders, Bill & Maggie McDowell, Gloria Fuller, Wendy Olson, Connor Thomas.**

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 5 to July 12, 2020**

<b>Sun. 5</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship Service</b>
	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Zoom Fellowship Time</b>
<b>Mon. 6</b>	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
<b>Sun. 12</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship Service</b>