

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

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

Margarita Morell & Lola Diaz, Liturgists

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

November 1, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Day

Preparation for Worship: “Saints are big dreamers. They believe that with God on their side, no one and nothing can stop them. Saints are go-getters. They don’t wait for someone else to do good first; they jump right in. Saints are love-bringers. They try to see Christ in every person and every situation. Saints tell us what matters most in life is not what we earn or own, not the job we have or the people we know. What really matters is how much we love God, others, and ourselves, and how well we show that love in all we do.”

Unknown



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Today we give thanks for the dear and holy dead, who surround us like a great cloud of witnesses and make the mysterious heaven a home for our hearts.

All: Especially we remember the less famous saints, and that host of ordinary Christians, who in their day and place, faithfully loved and served God.

One: Praise God! Sing a new song of praise; sing God’s praise in the assembly of faithful people, the living and the dead.

All: For our God takes pleasure in ordinary believers and decorates the humble with victory robes.

***OPENING HYMN: “For All the Saints” (No. 299, NCH)**

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Al- le- lu-ia! Al- le- lu-ia!**

**You were their rock, their refuge, and their might:
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
‘mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
Al- le- lu-ia! Al- le- lu-ia!**

***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 of power and grace, the world is filled this day with the light of your communion of saints. We thank you for all the saints, ancient and modern, who have gone before us and lit our journey of faith. May we learn by their example. Grant us the courage to be your saints today. May we use the gifts you have given us to serve and witness to your Word in all we do. In this world of seeming gloominess, may we reflect the light of Christ in our lives. Bless our journeys of faith, and grace us with your holy presence. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 23:1-12 NRSV

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE: The Lighting of Memorial Candles

Leader: Almighty God, those who die in you now live with you in joy and blessedness. We thank you for the grace you gave your saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors.

People: We remember today the saints of the community of faith at Christ Congregational United Church of Christ. We remember, as well, beloved family members and friends who have passed on before us, as well as the victims of war, crime, and terrorism. We know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

L: I light these candle in memory of those who have gone home to God in the recent past, and so proclaim Jesus' triumph over death.

Dr. Carey Green Mark Krumich Grace Drout Margie Fickes

Gloria Fuller Ray Radkiewicz Dolly Bryan Arlene King

George Cubbison Francis Chastain Bryant Lila Friedman

Roger C. Nelson Charlotte de Ogburn Martha Davenport

Russell Davenport Rodney Foisy Bricker Gidson Ruth Holt

Rob Julien Betty Nelson Mary Piatt Allen Tinkham Ross Avina

The Rt, Rev. Dr. Seth Agidi Eddie Knight Heath Rosenbaum

Izzie May Best-Cowdry

**SPECIAL MUSIC "Even Death Now" (Chant of Hafiz poem)
Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**

PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS - Pastor Candy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of our parents in faith, through the ages you called forth people—courageous, faithful, and steadfast. Forgive us when we disregard the witness of those who have gone before us. Our memories are dim. Our faith does not burn with a passion as that of those who offered their entire lives to you. Open us to the past and to the bold testimony to faith in our world today. Connect us to the great cloud of witnesses so we may proclaim Christ’s justice and compassion in our own time.

WORDS OF GRACE AND ENCOURAGEMENT -Pastor

God welcomes us, like a mother scooping up her lost children, like a father embracing his prodigal son. We are encouraged to learn from that forgiveness, to offer it to ourselves and others again and again. In Christ Jesus, you are forgiven.

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

Holy God, source of all, you provide everything we need and more. Accept the gifts we offer as a symbol of our heartfelt gratitude and our desire to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Marche Funebre” Frederick Chopin

MESSAGE: “Playing Church” Pastor Candy

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-Pastor

Remembering that many of us are gathered remotely, at many tables,
And are sharing bread and cup in a virtual communion,
May we remember that this action at table is the ultimate symbol of unity.
These tables are set and all of God’s children are welcome.
These tables are open and all of God’s children receive grace, love, and hope.
This welcome, this bounty, this experience of Christ’s saving love
are celebrated here at this table and all around the world.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING AND POURING

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**We thank you, Most Holy God, for refreshment at your table where along
with your saints we receive all Christ’s gifts. Provide for your church on earth
a strong faith and increased love for one another. Give us the grace to praise
you with our lives as did the saints who served you before us. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” (No. 295, NCH)

**I sing a song of the saints of God, faithful their whole lives through,
who bravely labored, lived and died for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen and another
a shepherd in pastures green; they were saints of God if you know what I
mean. God, help me to be one, too.**

**They loved their God and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong;
They did what was right for Jesus’ sake, lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest, and another was slain by a
fierce wild beast: there is no earthly reason, none in the least, why I shouldn’t
be one, too.**

**They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is filled with living saints who choose to do God’s will.
You can meet them in school, on the road or at sea, in a church,
In a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like you and like me,
and I mean to be one, too.**

COMMISSION

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE: “O, When the Saints Go Marching In”**



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.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please let Pastor Candy know of any joys or concerns you would like lifted up in worship by notifying her 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.

Dear Congregation,

I hope all is well with you! I am glad to be able to share some good news with you today. At last night's combined meeting of Church Council and Trustees the decision was made to resume in-person worship in our Garden Chapel at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 8th! That date is rather auspicious since it was eight months ago that we were last together in worship on March 8th at the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic precaution restrictions.

There will, of course, be protocols in place as recommended by the Deacons who were tasked with putting together guidelines that take into account our church's circumstances. You will be receiving very specific information on those guidelines prior to November 8th so you can be prepared. They include, of course, mandatory wearing of facemasks and social distancing. You may bring your own cushion to sit on a rock pew (did you know there are 106 rocks?!) or you may bring your own lawn chair. Ushers will help carry chairs

from your car, if needed. Hand sanitizer will be available.

We are so fortunate to have the Garden Chapel option at CCC. Worship there not only allows us to be in the fresh air but being in the peace and beauty of nature is a balm for the soul. We will also continue live-streaming our worship services on Facebook, so people may choose whichever worship location in which they are most comfortable—in-person in the Garden Chapel or at home.

Other changes: Beginning November 8th Zoom Prime Time will begin a little earlier, at 9 a.m., and Zoom Fellowship on the first and third Sundays will begin at 12:15 p.m. Christian Education class will remain on Zoom at 12:30 p.m. for children and youth.

I have every confidence that we will demonstrate our love for each other by doing all we can to keep each other safe as we celebrate coming together in person again to worship God on November 8th.

May God bless you!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Candy

Prime Time EVERY Sunday, from 9:30-10:15. *9:00 am beginning November 8th. We will continue to discuss the book

"An Altar in the World"

A Geography of Faith"

by Barbara Brown Taylor.

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6917354836?pwd=QnNrdE1VWWUvNjMvOWkzU1UwYzdPUT09>

Meeting ID: 691 735 4836

Passcode: 338243

Fellowship Hour AT NOON SUNDAY! *After today will begin at 12:15pm

To Join the FELLOWSHIP HOUR

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6917354836?pwd=QnNrdE1VWWUvNjMvOWkzU1UwYzdPUT09>

Meeting ID: 691 735 4836

Passcode: 338243

BIBLE STUDY

PLEASE NOTE THAT BIBLE STUDY TIME HAS CHANGED BACK TO THE FORMER TIME. We will meet on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Mondays.

To Join Zoom Meeting

Sign-in information is:

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82547685992>

Meeting ID: 825 4768 5992 One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82547685992# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,82547685992# US (New York) Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 825 4768 5992

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb9UP3HTiy>

The Outreach Committee is collecting donations for Thanksgiving. We hope to offer help to 5 families of the Guardian ad Litem children that members of the church work with. The campaign is **starting November 1, and will continue through November 22nd**. You can forward a check to the church earmarked for the Thanksgiving fund, or you can pay through the online portal. We thank you for your support.

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 you'd like added to the Prayer List She may be e-mailed at christch@bellsouth.net or call her at 305-235-9381. Thanks be to God for prayers answered and for comfort given!

Prayer List:

The family of Gloria Fuller, Mr & Mrs Jerry Parks, Linda Dalrymple, Barbara Parker, Edward Hudson, Lindsay Robertson, Mary Ellen Prather, Frank Tirb, Rosemary Daniels, The Family of Margie Fickes, The Family of Dollie Bryan, Rhonda Johnstone Cepedes, The Family of Ray Radkiewicz, Lauren Kline, Margarita Morell's sister, All medical professionals and first responders, Bill & Maggie McDowell, Wendy Olson, Ezell Smith.

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 November 1, 2020 to November 8, 2020

Sun. 1	9:30 a.m.	Prime Time ZOOM Meeting
	10:30 a.m.	Video Worship Service with Holy Communion
	Noon	Fellowship ZOOM Meeting
Mon. 2	6 p.m.	Bible Study ZOOM Meeting
Sun. 8	9:00 a.m.	Prime Time ZOOM Meeting
	10:30 a.m.	Worship in the Garden Chapel in person & live-streamed on Facebook
	12:30 p.m.	Christian Education

