

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
Daniel D. Best, Liturgist

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

October 18, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Children's Sabbath & Laity Sunday

Preparation for Worship: “Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature.”

Meister Eckhart, 14th century



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (*inspired by Exodus 33:12-23*)

Leader: How shall we know that we have found favor in your sight, O God?

People: How do children know that they are created in your image?

L: How do we raise up youth to always know
your presence goes with them?

People: How do we find this faith within ourselves, O God?

L: With Moses, we implore, “Show us your glory.

**All: With the children, we seek your graciousness now in this time of
worship and throughout all our living. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN: “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” (No. 565, NCH)**

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**

**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.**

**Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**God of forever and right now,
By your Spirit open our ears to hear your Word to us
in scripture,
in sermon,
in song.
Open our eyes to see your Word to us
in children's faces,
in troubling statistics,
in our action together.
Open our hearts to feel your Word to us
in the warmth of love,
in the ache of sadness,
in the energy of commitment.
Strengthen our desire for justice for all children,
And our wills to advocate and organize,
So that all children may grow up safe, and thrive in community.**

SPECIAL MUSIC:

“Praeludium”

JS Bach

*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 LESSONS:

Exodus 33:12-23

NRSV

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.” The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

Matthew 22:15-22

NRSV

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor; or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Growing God, we confess that we cling to the comfortable,
fall back on the familiar,
and allow apathy to dull our hearts and our commitment.
We shrug our shoulders and say that poverty is inevitable
even as it deprives children of the fullness of life
that you intend and they deserve.
We throw up our hands at the number of children without health coverage
and accept what is unacceptable.
We shake our heads over the bursting prisons
but turn away from the things that push children toward prison
rather than keeping them on the path to success.**

**Forgive us, Growing God, for callousness instead of compassion,
for discouragement instead of determination,
for selfishness instead of service.
Allow us to grow into your ways and find favor in your sight.
Mature with us so that just love may be realized for all your children.
Daydream with us so that we might do justice on the behalf of all children.
Answer these prayers we pray in the name of your Beloved Child,
the hope of the world. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Pastor: God grows with you.
Look upon her face, as she speaks sweetly to you, saying,
I will do the very thing you have asked;
for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.**

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

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

Prime Time EVERY Sunday, from 9:30-10:15. 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 VIA ZOOM today at noon! To Join:

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

Meeting ID: 691 735 4836 Passcode: 338243

Bible Study led by Pastor Candy will take place on Monday, October 19th at 6 p.m. on Zoom. Sign-in information is: To Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 825 4768 5992 One tap mobile

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+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Just a reminder for our youth to join our Sunday school class by Zoom, meeting ID 408 209 6927, passcode 3R5t31 this Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

If you have finished coloring your “Protect the Environment” page on your “Be the Church” booklet, please bring it to class. Also, we would like you to send a picture of your completed page to me to be included in a future newsletter. If you do not have it finished by this Sunday, please try to have it available for the following Sunday.

A reminder to **RSVP Joan Chandler**, at bingo123@bellsouth.net, if you are planning to attend our Halloween Grab and Go (details in this bulletin and newsletter) on Saturday, **October 31 from 5 to 6 p.m.**

The Board of Christian Education, the Outreach Committee and the CCC Women are collecting individually pre-packed candy, chips, cookies and prizes for a Halloween Grab & Go event for our youth and children that will be held on **Saturday, October 31st from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.** You can drop off any donations in the **foyer of the church office (Whitney Hall) between 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 p.m. October 19th through 23rd and October 26th through 30th.** There will also be a box outside on the east side of Kelsey on Saturday, October 24 from 10 a.m. to noon. Drive by to pick up your Halloween treat bag October 31st. Dress in costume or come as you are. Decorate your car if you'd like and invite a friend. RSVP to bingo123@bellsouth.net so we will have an approximate count. Get there early while supplies last. See you soon. Don't forget Social distancing and masks.

On Sunday, November 1, 2020, our congregation will **celebrate All Saints' Day.** **During the 10:30 a.m. worship service** there will be a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for the lives of our loved ones who have gone home to God since last All Saints' Day. You are invited to be present in worship and to share this invitation with other family members. A candle will be lit on the altar as names are read. **Please let Pastor Candy or Michelle,** our Administrative Assistant, know of those you'd like included. We will remember them in our prayers and give thanks for each life.

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:

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, Heath Rosenbaum, Margarita Morell's sister, All medical professionals and first responders, Bill & Maggie McDowell, Gloria Fuller, 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 October 18, 2020 to October 25, 2020

Sun. 18	9:30 a.m.	Prime Time ZOOM Meeting
Sun. 18	10:30 a.m.	Video Worship Service
Sun. 18	Noon	Fellowship Hour via ZOOM
Sun. 18	12:30 p.m.	Christian Ed Sunday School
Mon. 19	6 p.m.	Bible study
	7 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Sun. 25	9:30 a.m.	Prime Time ZOOM Meeting
Sun. 25	10:30 a.m.	Video Worship Service
Sun. 25	12:30 p.m.	Christian Ed Sunday School



