

Christ Congregational United Church of Christ

14920 S. W. 67 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, FL 33158

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E-mail: christch@bellsouth.net

Web site: www.christcongregationalucc.org

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

Joan Chandler, Liturgist

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

November 22, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

**Reign of Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday**

Preparation for Worship

"While we do our good works let us not forget that the real solution lies in a world in which charity will have become unnecessary."

Chinua Achebe, Anthills of the Savannah, 20th century



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Come, you thankful people, come.

People: Let us gather before God and lift up our songs of praise and thanksgiving.

L: God our maker does provide for our wants to be supplied.

P: Let us give thanks for God's generous spirit.

L: Let us give thanks for the blessings of food and family, of church and faith.

P: Let us give thanks for the beauty of the earth.

All: Let us praise God from whom all blessings flow.

***OPENING HYMN: “Come, O Thankful People, Come” (No. 422, NCH)**

**Come, O thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin;
God our maker does provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come, to God’s own temple come, raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the blessings of the field,
all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply,
ripened ‘neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o’er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o’er flowing stores,**

**These to you, our God we owe, source from whom all blessings flow,
and for these our songs we raise,
grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

***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)

**Gracious God, we long to know you better.
Open us to recognize your presence,
to receive you fully,
and to be ready to follow your leading. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Matthew 25:31-46

NRSV

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC “All Good Gifts/We Gather Together”

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Loving God, too often, we overlook the needs of people around us
while we proclaim our devotion to you. We could do so much more to feed the
hungry, clothe the naked, to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick.
We fail to see how our prison system diminishes the humanity of all of us,
how our medical system denies healing to the poor,
how poverty leaves children without coats,
how legal obstacles keep the strangers at a distance.
Open our eyes to see your presence in every person,
and to respond to their needs so that we may be rightly called by your name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON-Pastor

Though we wander, God searches us out.

Speaking through Ezekiel, God said,

**“As shepherds seek out their flocks
when they are among their scattered sheep,
so I will seek out my sheep.**

**I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick gloom.”**

God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer.

Hear this good news: you are forgiven and free.

**The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and
again, and again and again. Let us praise God with joy!**

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 INVITATION:

Generosity may come as an impulse,
but it is cultivated by the practice of regular giving.

Let us today move from beliefs to actions that make a difference in the world.

We give in gratitude for God’s gifts to us,
and we give because we need to live beyond ourselves.

Use this time of offering as an opportunity
to grow and to grow the realm of God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

God of abundance,
we give these offerings of material goods
as our commitment to give back to you
and to care for your people.
Let our giving remind us to see Jesus all around us.
Use our offerings of money and of our lives
for ministry to your purposes. Amen.

**MUSICAL OFFERING: “Colors of the Wind” from Pocahontas
Alan Mencken & Stephen Schwartz**

MESSAGE: “When Did We See You?” Pastor Candy Thomas

CLOSING HYMN: “We Gather Together” (No.421, NCH)

We gather together to ask for God’s blessings,
to live in community, seeking God’s will.
We come now, as sisters and brothers,
confessing the sins that divide
and the wrong in us still.

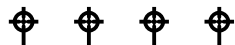
Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
You call us O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray.
Empowering all by the hope you engender,
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

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. 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

THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, November 29th. Plan to be present in the Garden Chapel in-person or on Facebook live as we light the first candle of HOPE on the Advent wreath to begin this holy time of waiting together.

PRIME TIME, EVERY Sunday, from 9:00-9:45 a.m.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Topic: Care for the Poor I

TO Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79506625182?pwd=akZPVIBlQ0JldEUxbkNRbithN1UyUT09> Meeting ID: 795 0662 5182 Passcode: 13s43p

BIBLE STUDY

We will meet on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Mondays.

To Join Zoom Meeting Sign-in information is:

<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 will continue through TODAY. 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, Gail Kenan, Graham and Carmen Andrew and their entire family, Mr & Mrs Jerry Parks, Linda Dalrymple, Barbara Parker, 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, The family of Tula Vernon.

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 22, 2020 to November 29, 2020

Sun. 22	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 ZOOM meeting
Mon. 23	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study ZOOM
Thu. 26		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Fri. 27		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Sun. 29	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 ZOOM meeting

Safety Protocols For Outside Services at Christ Congregational UCC

- In-person worship services will resume in the Garden Chapel on 11/8/2020 at 10:30 a.m..

It is expected that people will attend only if they are well. A photo will be taken of those in attendance in the event that contact tracing is needed. Ushers will obtain contact information from any guest visitors.

Live streaming on Facebook will continue. Worshippers may choose the option with which they are most comfortable.

- All attendees and participants are required to wear masks at all times which cover both mouth and nose.
- **Social distancing must be observed at all times**—prior, during, and following the worship service. As much as you would like to extend a welcoming handshake or warm hug, **please don't** out of respect and love for the health of our community.
- An Usher will be stationed at each of the three entrances to the Garden Chapel to assist in seating the congregation.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at each entrance.
- Seating can be on the rock pews or chairs may be brought by congregants if desired. If cushions are needed for the rock pews they must be brought in as they cannot be provided. If assistance is needed to carry chairs from cars an Usher will help.
- Worship programs will continue to be online each Friday and will also be handed out by Ushers wearing gloves.
- The Kelsey building will remain locked. There will be no refreshments after worship. Water fountains will not be available. Only bathrooms in the linear classroom building will be available.
- A receptacle will be available for offerings.
- Monthly Holy Communion will be observed using individual Celebration pre-packaged elements.
- Trash cans with bag liners will be placed at all exits.
- Live Streaming on Facebook will be continued. ***In case of bad weather, worship will be held in the Sanctuary with doors and glass side walls open.**

