

*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](mailto:christch@bellsouth.net)

Web site: [www.christcongregationalucc.org](http://www.christcongregationalucc.org)

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

Anita Smith – Liturgist

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

November 8, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

*Stewardship Sunday*

### Preparation for Worship

"Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh, be swift to love, make haste to be kind." *Henri-Frédéric Amiel, Amiel's Journal, 19th century*



### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: How lovely is God's dwelling place.

**People: Our souls yearn for God's presence; our hearts and our flesh call out for the living God.**

L: The Mighty One is a sun and a shield. God bestows favor and honor.

**P: We seek God and God answers us. God delivers us from our fears.**

L: Come into God's house. Here even a sparrow finds a home,

**P: even the swallow has a nest near God's altar.**

L: Come all you who thirst, all you who are heavy laden. Come take refuge here.

**\*OPENING HYMN: “ When Morning Gilds the Skies” (No. 86, NCH ) v 1-3**

**When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awakening cries,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer  
one purpose I declare:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**New strength comes night or day  
When from the heart we say,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let sin and evil fear,  
When this sweet chant they hear:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Discordant human kind,  
in this your concord find,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**\*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) Eternal God, we gather as your people here and virtually on computers and phones to worship you. . By your Spirit break the bonds that hold our minds captive to the concerns of our lives, that we may know the freedom of new possibilities. Quiet the din of our distracted spirits that we may hear your gentle voice calling us. Transform our very lives that we may go forth from this hour with deeper commitment to doing your will, with a firm assurance of your presence. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Matthew 25:1-13*

*NRSV*

*[Jesus said:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

**SPECIAL MUSIC “Morning has Broken” arr. Graham Bryan/Jay Harragin**

**CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)**

**Gracious God, we confess to you that we have not been your servant people. We have not been as loving, caring, sharing as we should. We have been weak in the cause of justice, slow to opportunities for kindness, quick to anger and hurting words. We have each put ourselves in the center of our world. We have turned away from our neighbor’s need. We have not thanked you, nor been your ministers, nor prayed as we should. Accept the burden of our sinful selves, heal our pain, and set us free. In the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON-Pastor

There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when a son or daughter opens to the gift of forgiveness. God’s Spirit reaches out to assure us of welcome in Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven by God’s grace. Amen.

**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**

Readiness for Mission is one way to interpret the diligence of the Wise Wedding Attendants. Their lamps are filled and available to be sparked into light at the moment the Beloved appears to begin the wedding feast of justice, love and peace.

Let us be ready, too, with our tithes and offerings, to support the work of our congregation and the wider church.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**God, we have come, and given generously of our gifts.**

**Take, bless and multiply them**

**so that they may be a blessing in your world.**

**In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING: “In the Garden” C. Austin Miles**

**MESSAGE: “Check Your Oil!” Pastor Candy Thomas**

**CLOSING HYMN: "I Come to the Garden Alone" (No. 237, NCH)**

**I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.  
And he walks with me, and he talks with me,  
And he tells me I am his own.  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
none other has ever known.**

**He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet  
The birds hush their singing;  
And the melody that he gave to me  
within my heart is to ringing.  
And He walks with me and He talks with me,  
and He tells me I am his own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
none other has ever known.**

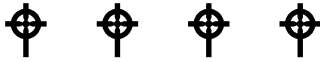
**I'd stay in the garden with him,  
though the night around me be falling;  
But he bids me go;  
through the voice of woe his voice to me is calling.  
And He walks with me and He talks with me,  
and He tells me I am his own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
none other has ever known.**

**COMMISSION**

Keep your lamps filled and your hearts open,  
ready for the call of God.  
Go in peace, counting on  
the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the sweet communion of\* the Holy Spirit.

**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**

**IN PERSON WORSHIP HAS BEEN CANCELLED TODAY**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>  
AFTER WORSHIP ON ZOOM – Sign in information to follow.**

**Prime Time EVERY Sunday, from 9:00-10:00 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 TODAY 12:30 p.m.**

**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:**

**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/j/82547685992>**

**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 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](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 you'd like added to the Prayer List She may be e-mailed at [christch@bellsouth.net](mailto: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, their entire family, 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, Gail Kenan, Graham and Carmen Andrew & Family.**

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 8, 2020 to November 15, 2020**

<b>Sun. 8</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Prime Time ZOOM Meeting</b>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Video Worship live-streamed on Facebook</b>
	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Christian Education ZOOM Meeting</b>
<b>Mon. 9</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bible Study ZOOM Meeting</b>
<b>Sun. 15</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Prime Time ZOOM Meeting</b>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship in the Garden Chapel in person &amp; live streamed on Facebook</b>
	<b>11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Congregational Meeting</b>
	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Christian Education ZOOM Meeting</b>



## **Safety Protocols For Outside Services at Christ Congregational UCC**

- In-person worship services will resume in the Garden Chapel on 11/15/2020 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 provide the assistance.

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.**