

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
Web site: www.christcongregationalucc.org
The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor
Jay Harragin, Director of Music

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Our Vision: A church that listens, praises God, inspires, and serves others.
December 27, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas

Preparation for Worship
“For Christmas is but one more word for love.”
Rod McKuen



PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Leader: In these moments, O God, we pause to recall your coming into our world,

People: To sing songs of your joy and love, and to pray for your peace and hope.

L: With your coming you brought light into a dark world;

P: Joy into a painful world; hope into a lonely world; and peace into a warring world.

All: Help us to remember your gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Help us to remember that your coming into our lives is the promise of life.

HYMN: "The First Nowell" (NCH, #139) verses 1 & 2

The first Nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.

**They looked above and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.**

*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)

Glorious God, we thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus. We come before you with wonder and delight that you came to us in the infant Jesus. Be with us in this birthday celebration. Come; honor us with the presence of your gracious, dancing spirit. Fill our weary hearts with renewed hope and joy. Rekindle in our souls the light of Christ. Glory to you in the highest, O God. Glory in the highest! Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 1:1-14

NRSV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(Lighting of the Christ candles.)

UNISON BLESSING OF CHRIST CANDLES

Source of all Illumination, we celebrate today the coming of your Word made flesh, your Light of life to dwell among us. Bless these holy flames that in their glow we may be blessed by your grace and abiding love. May these candles remind us of your steadfast presence. May they give us hope in times of darkness. Bless us, that we might reflect the Light of Christ in our daily lives, We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world!

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 98 (with instruments)

¹O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

⁸Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

⁹at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Verse 1,2,3 -All say “Hooray” at the end of each verse and clap.

Verse 4- All instruments play, voices say “Alleluia” at the end of the verse.

Verse 5-ring bells, triangles, cymbals

Verse 6- drums, rain sticks, maracas, shakers

Verse 8- clap hands, click sticks

Verse 9- all instruments, clap hands, stamp feet.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG: "Away in a Manger" verse 4

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

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-Pastor

Consider once more our covenant with God. The One for whom and by whom all things exist has blessed us with abundance, mercy, and steadfast love. We are called to respond with our whole being in an outpouring of thanksgiving. Let us worship God with our offerings.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:(Unison)

Thank you, God, for all we have, for all we are. Thank you for the faithfulness of your love, brought to us through Jesus and through all who have taught us, cared for us, and led us to you. Thank you for the privilege of responding to your generosity with these gifts and with our lives. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Reading: "Have a Defiant Christmas" by John Shea

CLOSING HYMN: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (NCH, #154)

(Chorus)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light (Chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. (Chorus)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Chorus)

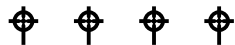
COMMISSION AND BLESSING:

*Commission

Proclaim the Good News! The Word of God dwells among us. The Light of God shines in the world. Sing praises. Shout for joy! Celebrate the hope and promise of this day. Go with God’s peace in your heart.

*Benediction

And now may the glory and love of God surround you. May the grace and peace of Christ dwell deep within you. May the power and presence of the Holy Spirit uphold you. Amen.



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

A service of celebration and thanksgiving to God for the life of Bill McDowell will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 9, 2021, in the Sanctuary. Pandemic protocols will be followed. The worship service will also be live-streamed on Facebook.

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

The Board of Christian Ed is suggesting to our youth that they watch and listen to the messages presented by Pastor Candy each Sunday during our live -stream/in-person church services during the month of December. Use this as a springboard for discussion of the Advent season. Ms. Judy also emailed some suggestions for fun activities in which families could engage as we prepare for the birth of the Christ. Sunday School on zoom will resume after the new year.

from Cindy Ketzle on behalf of the Board of Christian Ed. 12-1-2020

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

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.

We will be starting a new prayer list in January. 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, The Family of Bill McDowell, Wendy Olson, 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 - December 27, 2020 – January 3, 2021

Sun. 27 9 00 a.m. **Prime Time ZOOM Meeting**
 10:30 a.m. **Worship in the Garden Chapel in person**
& live- streamed on ZOOM

Mon. 28 6:00 p.m. **Bible Study ZOOM**

Fri. 1 **New Year's Day-Church Office Closed**

Sun. 3 9:00 a.m. **Prime Time ZOOM Meeting**
 10:30 a.m. **Worship in the Garden Chapel in person**
& live- streamed on ZOOM



Safety Protocols For Outside Services at Christ Congregational UCC

In-person worship services held in the Garden Chapel on Sundays 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.**

