

*Christ Congregational United Church of Christ*  
14920 S. W. 67 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, FL 33158  
305-235-9381, Fax 305-238-4801  
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Web site: www.christcongregationalucc.org  
The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor  
Jay Harragin, Director of Music  
Karen Kett, Liturgist

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

January 3, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.  
Second Sunday after Christmas

*Preparation for Worship*

“Don’t lose hope. When it gets dark, the stars come out.

~Unknown~

For last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s  
words await another voice.

~ t s eliot



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**Many: Stand up, a new day is dawning.**

One: a new year is born, fresh and clean.

**Many: Arise, shine, for your light has come.**

One: Emmanuel, God is with us

**Many: on every path we take, no matter where we go.**

**One: Arise, shine, for your light has come,**

**All: and the stars still shine where Christ is present, and voices sing in praise!**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (HFG, No. 206)**

**1. We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.**

**Chorus: O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

**2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.**

**Chorus**

**3. Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worshiping God on high.**

**Chorus**

**\*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 wonder and mystery, today we remember how you surprise us in every age. Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into the emptiness, you bring abundance; into the cold, you bring warmth. Into the hardness of the world, you bring the greatest power we have known in the seemingly powerless form of an infant. Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us, and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder. Amen.**

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

#### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**SPECIAL MUSIC “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” German melody 14<sup>th</sup> Century**

#### SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We remember the Magi, who set out with singular focus on the promise of the heavens.

**All: And we remember the ways that we have lost sight of you, God, as the bright guide for our lives.**

One: We remember that they stayed determined on their journey, not even swayed by Herod’s power and promises.

**All: And we remember that often we have started out well, but strayed from your path, detoured by our fleeting fears and desires.**

One: We remember the wise ones who adored the child: wisdom wealth falling to their knees before a poor infant.

**All: And we remember that too often we have given our adoration to wealth or wisdom, not seeing the Christ in our midst.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON-Pastor**

To each of us who knows that we have lost sight of the promise or lost the way of our God, or lost hope, God has a promise: "I am with you."

God gives a holy presence, and forgiveness and new hope in the Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

#### **PRAYER SONG: "God Is Truly With Us" (No. 68, NCH)**

**God is truly with us; sing we and adore now: praise the One we come before now.**

#### **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**

As the magi of old, guided by a light in the night sky, brought gifts of gratitude to God, so we bring our gifts. May these gifts be a source of light to those in need.

##### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION:(*Unison*)**

**God of light, we dedicate ourselves and these gifts for service in the world. May we be beacons of love and justice in a darkened world, shining your light on the poor and needy, the victims of oppression and violence, and all living in dark places in need of your light. Amen.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING: “As of Gladness Those of Old” Conrad Kocher**

**MESSAGE: “Searching” Pastor Candy**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Communion Prayer**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing the Elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

**Light of the world, we bow before you in awe and adoration. Bless us and increase our faith as we seek understanding. Reveal to us what we need to know to love you and serve you and keep your word with faithfulness and truth, courage and hope, this day and always. As you have come to us in the act of communion with one another, let us go out to others in Jesus’ name. May our every prayer be an action that brings healing, reconciliation, and hope to a broken and hurting world. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Arise, Your Light Is Come” (No. 164, NCH)**

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey; Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; Proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing; God’s power will make us strong.**

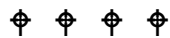
## COMMISSION (Unison)

Let us go in peace now;  
We have brought our gifts to the manger—  
and for some of us  
it was merely our broken selves—  
but how, like the shepherds, we must go back to our fields;  
like the magi,  
we must go home another way.

Let us go in peace now;  
May this Holy Child guide our steps  
into the new year  
And give us the courage to give birth to God's realm.

## 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.*

**TODAY WE SHARE IN THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION. ALL WHO LOVE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ARE WELCOME AT HIS TABLE. YOU WILL EACH HAVE INDIVIDUAL, PREPACKAGED, DISPOSABLE JUICE AND WAFER CONTAINERS FOR YOUR USE.**

The Commission poem was written by Katie Cook.

**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.**

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

**FELLOWSHIP**

VIA ZOOM at 12:30 p.m.

MEETING ID 691 735 4836

PASSWORD 338243

**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](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.

We will be starting a new prayer list today. 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: Maggie McDowell, Sonia Nunez, Amelia Canali**

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 - January 3, 2021 – January 10, 2021**

<b>Sun. 3</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 ZOOM with Holy Communion</b>
	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour ZOOM Meeting</b>
<b>Mon. 4</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bible Study ZOOM Meeting</b>
<b>Sat. 9</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Celebration of Bill McDowell's life</b>
<b>Sun. 10</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 ZOOM</b>





## **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.**

