

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

Anita Smith, Liturgist

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

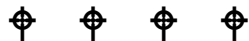
February 14, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Transfiguration

Preparation for Worship

“Transfiguration is living by vision: standing foursquare in the midst of a broken, tortured, oppressed, starving, dehumanizing reality, yet ‘seeing the invisible,’ calling to it, importuning it to come, behaving as if it is on the way, sustained by elements of it that have come already, within and among us.” Walter Wink

“Today is St. Valentine’s Day—a day to celebrate love. In the secular world it is celebrated with lace hearts, candy, and flowers. As we gather to worship let us know the presence of love in our midst—God’s love for us and the love God enables us to share with one another.” Maren C Tirabassi



PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

One: The glory of God transfigures the everyday!

People: The light of God transfigures familiar faces!

One. At the heights of our worship, may God’s presence shine though the commonplace.

People: At the depths of our pain and struggle, may God’s presence give us courage and peace.

All: May God’s light, shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days! Amen.

HYMN: "Higher Ground"

(No. 469, HFG)

**1. I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."**

Refrain:

**Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.**

**2. My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those abound,
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.**

Refrain:

**3. I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.**

Refrain:

**4. I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray, till heaven I've found,
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground."**

Refrain:

*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)

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our heart's desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. Draw us nearer that we might received a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy one, to live our lives as a reflection of your divine glory. May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing, bringing light to dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. Our world is hurting, and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying, "Listen to my Child, the Beloved!" Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

2 Kings 2:1-12

NRSV

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC "Just a Closer Walk with You" arr. Bryan, Harragin

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters,
and on the mountain tops,
enthralled with the glory that flows from you.
When we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us,
shake us from our contentment
and send us forward endowed with your power. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON-Pastor

The God of Elijah, the God of Moses and the God of Jesus
desires mercy more than sacrifice
and a contrite heart rather than burnt offerings.
Love God and do the right thing
and forgiveness shall be your friend
and mercy your true companion. **Amen.**

PRAYER SONG: "Spirit of the Living God" (No. 283, NCH)

**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

Peter offered to build a tabernacle on the mountain with Jesus.

But God does not dwell in houses made with human hands.

Let us offer ourselves in service to those God loves.

Let us offer our sacrifices to build community,

bring peace, and be a double blessing

to those in need throughout the world. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

With these gifts we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus,

and commit ourselves to follow a way that leads to love and life.

May our sacrifice be witness to our love for each other

and the God who loves us all. Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING: “My Funny Valentine” Joe Dassin

MESSAGE: “Only Jesus” Pastor Candy

CLOSING HYMN: “When the Saints Go Marching In”

**WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN
OH, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN
HOW I LONG TO BE IN THAT NUMBER
WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN!**

**I WANT TO JOIN THAT HEAVENLY BAND
I WANT TO JOIN THAT HEAVENLY BAND
I WANT TO HEAR THOSE HEAVENLY TRUMPETS,
WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN!**

COMMISSION-(Unison)

Now may the God who said,
“Let light shine out of darkness”
and has shone in our hearts,
give us light to bear to the world
that all may see and know that God is love. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Welcome to Everyone!

*Whoever or whatever brought you to our Garden Chapel or our Facebook 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.*

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN AFTER WORSHIP TODAY TO PICNIC TOGETHER IN THE GARDEN CHAPEL. INDIVIDUALLY PACKAGED SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO DIDN’T BRING A LUNCH. WE WILL CHOOSE A NEW KEEPER OF THE ALLELUIA AS WE PUT THE ALLELUIA AWAY FOR LENT.

ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021, we will worship together at 5:30 p.m. in the Garden Chapel and on Facebook. You are invited to be present as we begin the season of Lent.

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE! Through the month of February donations may be made to purchase blankets through Church World Service in memory or honor of a loved one to be given to those in need. The cost of a blanket is \$10. Christian Outreach is sponsoring this mission opportunity. You may donate on-line, in person at worship, or you may send a check to the church office.

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

Please have your Annual Reports emailed to Michelle at christch@bellsouth.net NO LATER than February 21st! Many Thanks!

Please stipulate when your giving is other than pledge or plate by letting Judy Carlson or Michelle Simone know.

PER CAPITA DUES

It's time to pay our Per Capita Dues. Each year our church is asked to pay \$15 for all members of our church. These offerings do things such as pay conference staff salaries and support, provides events and resources from the conference, provides grants and loans, provides conflict mediation, assists churches in searching for new ministers, maintains expectations and accountabilities for those serving as pastors, and is a resource open to providing advice and counsel when needed. As a church, Christ Congregational UCC has used a number of these services in recent years.

CCC Women's Group

Please note that any checks for the CCC Women's Group should be made out to the CCC Women's group since it is a separate bank account. Thank You!

Altar flowers If you would like to place fresh flowers on the altar of the Garden Chapel in memory or honor of a loved one, send your request information and check for \$30 to the church office (attention Michelle). From the Board of Deacons

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

Our new book selection for Prime Time will be Caste by Isabel Wilkerson.

It will be led by Dr. Don Olson.

All are welcome to join

Topic: Donald Olson's Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 14, 2021 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99918456708?pwd=RWg0TUpsK0ZaUkJsRnN4bDNSZ1BMUT09>

Meeting ID: 999 1845 6708 Passcode: 706854

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

TODAY

Topic: ENJOY THIS LIFE!

Time: February 14, 2021 1:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Zoom ID: 428 934 9600 Passcode: perrine (all lowercase)

BIBLE STUDY

We will meet on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Mondays. There will be NO BIBLE STUDY tomorrow February 15th in observance of Presidents Day!

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

CCC WOMEN'S GROUP

The CCC Women's February meeting and book discussion of *The Invisible Half* by Brit Bennett will be held on Saturday, 2/20 at 10:30 AM. For CCC WOMEN'S dues, the checks should be made out to CCC WOMEN or put a footnote in the memo section.

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6917354836> Meeting ID: 691 735 4836

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.

Prayer List: Sheryl Mattos, Maggie McDowell, Sonia Nunez, Amelia Canali, Wendy Olson, Roland Sibrie, Sonya Williams and Ava.

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 – February 14, 2021 to February 21, 2021

- Sun. 14** **9:00 a.m.** **Prime Time ZOOM Meeting**
- 10:30 a.m.** **Worship in the Garden**
 Chapel in person & live-streamed
 on Facebook
- 1:00 p.m.** **Christian Education via ZOOM**
- Mon. 15** **Church Office closed – Presidents Day**
 NO BIBLE STUDY
- Ash Wednesday, 17** **5:30 p.m.** **Worship in the Garden Chapel**
- Sat. 20** **10:30 a.m.** **CCC Women’s Group ZOOM Meeting**
- Sun. 21** **9:00 a.m.** **Prime Time ZOOM Meeting**
- 10:30 a.m.** **Worship in the Garden**
 Chapel in person & live-streamed
 on Facebook
- 1:00 p.m.** **Christian Education via 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.**