

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
Joan Campagna, Liturgist

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

February 28, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent
Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday

Preparation for Worship

“Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.” –Shannon Alder



PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Leader: People of faith, listen for the wind,
Children of God, dare to encounter the Spirit.

People: Who will tell us what God wants us to do?
How will we know what we hear is of God?

L: Our ancestors of the faith dared to trust in God;
They left to follow a call and a promise.

P: Where is it that God wants to lead us?
How can we be born anew, born of the Spirit?

L: We have received the promise of steadfast love;
God has blessed us and our hearts are glad.

All: Let us worship God together!

HYMN: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (No. 193, NCH)

- 1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o’er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story gathers ‘round its head sublime.**
- 2. When the woes of life o’er take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.**
- 3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.**
- 4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**
- 5. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o’er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story gathers ‘round its head sublime.**

***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 all generations, we come seeking truth we have not found in other places. We want to feel the winds of your spirit, but we don’t want to be blown off our feet. O God of love, help us to trust you and dare to embrace your promises with confidence and hope. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 NRSV

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore, his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC "Bring Many Names" arr. Bryan, Harragin

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of Abraham and Sarah, we confess that we have not listened with all our being for your direction. We have not wanted to accept the cost of following Jesus. We have not allowed the Spirit to engage us. We want life on our terms. We want to play God. But the role is too big for us, God; we confess it. We need you God, especially when we fail to hear or refuse to act. Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for right decisions and fruitful actions. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON-Pastor

God delivers us from ways of death and shields us from the full consequences of our sin. We are forgiven, released from the burden of our guilt, restored to the inheritance God intends for us. By God's grace, we are granted new life, new opportunities. God has acted in Jesus to bring us to fullness of life. God is acting still to save us. Be glad in God.

PRAYER SONG: "O Lord, hear my prayer" *Songs & Prayers from Taize*

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to 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

God has given us the gift of life and surrounded us with abundant resources. Again and again, we have been blessed beyond our deserving. Let us express our thanks with our gifts.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

Because you gave Jesus Christ as a gift to the world, we bring our gifts today. Because you have loved us, God, we renew our commitment to share love with your people. Because you are even now renewing our spirits, we pour out our thanksgiving. The gifts we dedicate here have always belonged to you. The wealth we retain for our own use is yours as well. Use all we have and all we are to move your world from death to life.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Janet Vogt

MESSAGE: "Promise Maker, Promise Keeper" Pastor Candy

CLOSING HYMN: "Standing on the Promises"

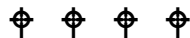
(No. 69, HFG)

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King
Through eternal ages let his praises ring!
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing
Standing on the promises of God,
Standing on the promises of God!
2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God,
Standing on the promises of God!
3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God,
Standing on the promises of God!
4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call.
Resting in my Savior as my All in all,
Standing on the promises of God,
Standing on the promises of God!

COMMISSION

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.*

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE! 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.

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

PER CAPITA DUES

It is 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.

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 book selection for Prime Time is Caste by Isabel Wilkerson.

Dr. Don Olson is leading the discussion.

All are welcome to join

Topic: Donald Olson's Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 28, 2021 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

Meeting ID: 999 1845 6708 Passcode: 706854

CCC FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY

Time: 12:30-1:30 PM

To Join Zoom Meeting

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

TODAY

Topic: ENJOY THIS LIFE!

Time: February 28, 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 Monday, March 1st. To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82547685992> Meeting ID: 825 4768 5992 One tap mobile

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: Barbara Parker, Linda Dalrymple, Barrett family, 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 28, 2021 to March 7, 2021

- Sun. 28 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. CCC Fellowship Hour ZOOM Meeting**
- 1:00 p.m. Christian Education via ZOOM**
- Mon. 6:00 p.m. Bible Study via ZOOM**
- Sun. 7 9:00 a.m. Prime Time ZOOM Meeting**
- 10:30 a.m. Family First Worship in the Garden**
Chapel in person & live-streamed on
Facebook with *Holy Communion*.
- 1:00 p.m. Christian Education via ZOOM**

LENTEN SCHEDULE

**Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m. In the Garden Chapel and
livestreamed on Facebook.**

**March 7th
March 14th
March 21st**

March 28th -Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday, April 1st Time to be announced.

Easter Sunday, April 4th



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.**