

*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

Joan Chandler, Liturgist

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

February 7, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*Preparation for Worship*

“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles,  
leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.”

Maya Angelou



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Good people of the church,  
Lift up your eyes and see.

**All: Have you not seen?  
Have you not heard? Our God greets us here.**

One: Good servants of the Most High, open your ears to hear.

**All: Have you not seen?  
Have you not heard?  
Our God meets us here.**

One: Good children of the light  
Open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

**All: For we have seen, heard and known  
From the beginning to the end,  
Our God...IS!**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (No. 472, NCH)**

**1. Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light:**

**Refrain**

**Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.**

**2. When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall:**

**Refrain**

**3. When the shadows appear  
And the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand:**

**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)**

**Eternal God, Creator of the universe...and then some.  
We call on you, you who greet us here.  
We give you thanks for making it possible to gather,  
and to ponder your eternal mysteries.  
Make us, creatures of this time and space,  
ready collaborators with your endless grace. Amen.**

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

*Mark 1:29-39*

*As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

**"On Eagles Wings"**

**Bill Joncus**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: What do we hold and treasure most?

**All: Is it the promises of God?**

One: What captivates our attention?

**All: Is it the grace of God?**

One: God of mercy and grace:

**All: We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable. We are broken people who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness. Heal us, O God, to make us better healers. Mend our broken places, that we might be better servants. Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression. We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Have you known? Have you heard?

Our God lifts us up on eagle's wings

Strengthening us so that we won't be weary.

The burden of sin is but a far and distant memory

For, through Christ, our sins – all of them – are forgiven.

**All: God is great in strength, mighty in power, and full of endless love for us all.**

**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

Giving takes so many shapes – but, like any spiritual discipline, the key is for that gift to grow. We grow in our knowledge of God, we grow in our faith.

If we aren't already, may we not seek to grow in our giving, as well?

In the time we give? In the money we give? In the love we give?

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION:(Unison)

**God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give.**

**We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns.**

**We give these gifts, knowing that they will give so much more. Use them and use us as you see fit. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## MESSAGE

**"Have You Not Heard?"**

**Pastor Candy**

**MUSICAL OFFERING: “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. Bryan, Harragin**

## 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 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.**

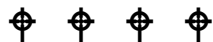
**CLOSING HYMN: “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” (No. 539, NCH)**

- 1. Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**
- 2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**
- 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**
- 4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**
- 5. When we sing to god in heaven we shall find such harmony.  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**
- 6. Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**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.*

**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.**

**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](mailto:christch@bellsouth.net) NO LATER than February 7<sup>th</sup>! Many Thanks!**

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

**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 begin TODAY from 9:00-9:45.**

**It will be led by Dr. Don Olson.**

**All are welcome to join**

**Topic: Donald Olson's Zoom Meeting**

**Time: Jan 31, 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**

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

**Topic: ENJOY THIS LIFE!**

**Time: February 14, 2021 12:30 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.**

**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**

**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.

**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 7, 2021 – February 14, 2021**

<b>Sun. 7</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Prime Time ZOOM Meeting</b>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Family First Worship in the Garden Chapel in person with Holy Communion &amp; live-streamed on Facebook</b>
	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christian Education via ZOOM</b>
<b>Mon. 8</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bible study via ZOOM</b>
<b>Sun. 14</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>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christian Education via ZOOM</b>
<b>Mon. 15</b>		<b>Church Office closed – Presidents Day</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.**