

***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**

**Judy Carlson, Liturgist**

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

**March 21, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Deep In Our Hearts**

***Preparation for Worship***

**“We know the truth, not only by the reason, but also by the heart.”**

**Blaise Pascal**



**PRELUDE:**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)**

**Leader:** Come to worship God, who is making a new covenant with us.

**People:** “I will write my law on your hearts,” God says.

**L:** “I will be your God. You will be my people,” God says.

**P:** We will not have to teach one another about God,  
for we will all know God, from the greatest to the least.

**All:** Come and worship God, who forgets our wrongs and forgives our  
sins.

**HYMN: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (No. 190, NCH)**

- 1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,  
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.**
- 2. Upon the cross of Jesus within my mind I see  
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;  
And from my grieving heart with tears two wonders I confess  
the wonders of Christ’s glorious love and my unworthiness.**
- 3. I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ’s face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

**\*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)**

**Compassionate God, your Christ wept for the people because of the hardness of their hearts. Warm our hearts with your love, so we might care deeply for the people of our nation and our world. Transform our caring into bread for the hungry, healing for the sick, and hope for those who hunger and thirst for justice, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**            *Jeremiah 31:31-34*            **NRSV**

*The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke,*

*though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.*

*Psalm 51:1-12*

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC "Grace Greater Than Our Sin" arr. John Innes**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**CALL TO CONFESSION-Pastor**

We who are quick to identify wrongdoing in others are called to confess our own sin. We who are swayed by outward appearances are challenged to look into our own hearts. We who stumble in self-created shadows are invited into the light that reveals, in order to be restored to wholeness.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**Oh God, we have wandered from your ways. We have pursued our own agendas as if they were superior to yours. We are afraid to face evil, to confront those wrongs that don't directly impact us, and to deal with issues of life and death. We are sometimes rigid and legalistic. We blame many things instead of taking responsibility for our own failures. Turn us around so we can accept your forgiveness, live more positively in the future, and truly rejoice in your good news. Let us live secure in your love. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF BLESSING-Pastor**

God anoints us with forgiving love and reaches out to us with the healing touch of Christ. All who live in trust are enabled to see and to serve. Rejoice at the wonderful works of God, giving thanks to the One opens our eyes and helps us to see. Live your gratitude for opportunities to invite others to worship and discipleship. In the love of God, you are forgiven.

**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

Jesus compels us to join him in service to others.  
Our church accepts the invitation and challenge  
to show Jesus' Way using the resources we share.  
Let us give as we are able to the ministries of our church.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

**In joy and celebration of the many gifts that we share,  
we ask you to bless all of our offerings. Let them be used to spread your  
love and gladden hearts. Amen.**

## MUSICAL OFFERING: "Open the Eyes of My Heart" Paul Baloche

MESSAGE: "Take It To Heart" Pastor Candy

## CLOSING HYMN: "Give Me a Clean Heart" (No. 188, NCH)

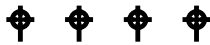
**Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.  
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.  
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.  
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.**

## COMMISSION: (*Unison*)

**Dear God. We thank you for today,  
for being with us, accepting our worship and prayers,  
and for guiding us on our way.  
Bless us as we go, and in turn, may we bless others.  
In Jesus' name. 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.*

**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**

**PALM SUNDAY** is a week from today on March 28th. Plan to be present in worship as we enter Holy Week.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING.** The amount of \$270.00 was received last week. Envelopes are available if you'd still like to contribute.

**A MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE WORSHIP SERVICE** will be held in the Garden Chapel on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. It will also be live-streamed on Facebook. Plan to be present for this meaningful service.

**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: March 21, 2021 9:00 a.m.)**

**<https://zoom.us/j/99918456708?pwd=RWg0TUpsK0ZaUkJsRnN4bDNS>**

**Z1BMUT09 Meeting ID: 999 1845 6708 Passcode: 706854**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**We will meet on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 22nd. To Join**

**Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82547685992>**

**Meeting ID: 825 4768 5992 One tap mobile**

**OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE**

**Once again we have collected an amazing array of protein, veggies and fruits, breakfast, lunch and dinner options for our community in need.**

**The foods will be divided between The Coral Gables Congregational UCC food pantry and Southridge High school's home and food insecure for their Spring Break food drive. Thank you all for this much needed boost to our community.**

**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:**

**Magnus, Anita Smith, 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 - March 21, 2021 – March 28, 2021**

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|----------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Sun. 21</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<br/>in person &amp; on Facebook</b> |
| <b>Mon. 22</b> | <b>6:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Bible Study via ZOOM</b>   |
|                | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Trustee/Church Council Meeting<br/>via ZOOM</b>                  |
| <b>Sun. 28</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<br/>in person &amp; on Facebook</b> |
|                | <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Fellowship Hour via ZOOM</b>                                     |



## **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

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

**March 28<sup>th</sup> -Palm Sunday**

**Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m  
Garden Chapel**

**Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

