

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

Isabella Legrand, Liturgist

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

March 7, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

Amistad Sunday/UCC Women's Week, March 7-13

Preparation for Worship

“All the knowledge seekers must pray like this: ‘Oh The Creator! Open our eyes to see the truth. Our ears to hear Your Commands and obey with a steadfast heart. Amen!’” — Mwanandeke Kindembo



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before God, our Maker!

People: God is creating the whole universe. God rules the infinity of time and space.

L: Come to sing your thanksgiving to God; Make a joyful noise with songs of praise.

P: God has supplied us with food and wáter; God feeds us and quenches our thirst.

L: Come to express your faith and hope; then listen for the still small voice of God.

P: God who is Spirit seeks us day by day; God calls us to worship in spirit and truth.

***OPENING HYMN: “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. Here within this temple, here in sound and silence, worship God in deepest reverence.

You alone, God, we own, you, our God and Savior; praise to you forever.

God is truly with us; loud our praise resounding! Echoes of the saints surrounding! “Holy, holy, holy,” hear the hymn ascending, angels, saints, their voices blending! Bow your ear to us here; hear, O Christ , the praises that your Church now raises.

Source of every blessing, bless the ones who name you, let our words and deeds proclaim you.

Like the saints and angels praising you in glory, may your servants sing your story. And in all, great and small, may we do most nearly what you love most dearly.

***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) We hear you calling us, God. You are among us here and now. By your grace we have gathered for worship. With the assurance of your love, we dare to open our lives once more to your reconciling action. In you, we find the truth that reveals and transforms. In the sharing of songs and prayers, we find the courage to grow and change. Bless us, we pray, with gifts to empower our ministry. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Exodus 20:1-17 NRSV

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the

sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC **"In the Garden"** **tune by C. Austin Miles**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**In this season of Lent we reflect on those things
that lead us away from the life we desire.**

**We focus on whatever we do that oppresses and enslaves others
who, like us, are created in the image of the divine.**

And now we seek the grace that frees us to live in faithfulness to holy love. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON-Pastor

The God of who brought the Israelites out of Egypt,
is the power that frees us from our sin.
Live in the grace of God's love
as you walk in the way of Jesus
and surely you shall find mercy at the end of that road. Amen.

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

Our tokens offered here are but symbols of our lives of sacrifice lived every day. May we give ourselves to the world as a holy offering acceptable to you, O God, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

Loving God, please bless the resources gathered today to sustain the programs and outreach of this church. May they, and we, give fitting expression to our thankfulness. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "People Get Ready" Words/Music by Curtis Mayfield

MESSAGE: "Live the Ten" Pastor Candy

COMMUNION HYMN: "As We Gather at Your Table" (No. 332, NCH)

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Thank you, God, for the gifts of grace and hospitality to which we have been made witness at your table. Help us to remember these lessons of love as we carry your blessings into the world. Let us grow in faithfulness, so we might share openly with others the love you have so freely lavished on us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Amazing Grace” (No 547, NCH)

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

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.

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.

The One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering will be received next Sunday, March 14th.

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 7, 2021 9:00)

<https://zoom.us/j/99918456708?pwd=RWg0TUpSbK0ZaUkJsRnN4bDNSZ1BMUT09>

Meeting ID: 999 1845 6708 Passcode: 706854

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING

The Board of Christian Education will be meeting to discuss our Sunday school class. If you are on the Board, a parent or a teacher, please plan to attend with your ideas and thoughts on the next steps for our program.

Mar 11, 2021 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

To Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85653205117>

Meeting ID: 856 5320 5117

BIBLE STUDY

We will meet on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 8th. 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: 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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD!



CALENDAR March 7, 2021 to March 14, 2021

- 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**
- Mon. 8** **6:00 p.m.** **Bible Study via ZOOM**
- Thurs. 11** **7:00 p.m.** **Christian Education ZOOM Meeting**
- Sun. 14** **9:00 a.m.** **Prime Time ZOOM Meeting**
- 10:30 a.m.** **Worship in the Garden Chapel in person & on Facebook**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Christian Education via ZOOM**

LENTEN SCHEDULE

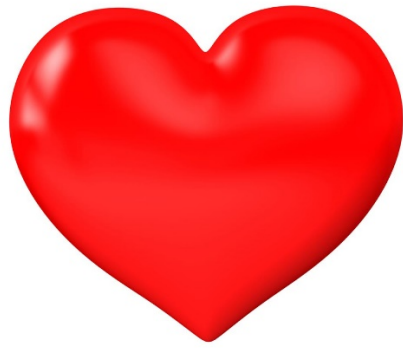
**Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.
In the Garden Chapel and
livestreamed on Facebook.**

**March 14th
March 21st**

March 28th -Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday, April 1st Time to be announced.

Easter Sunday, April 4th



**A BIG THANK YOU to those who contributed generously to
the CWS Blanket the World With Love campaign,
a total of \$330.00 was collected.**

Karen Kett - In Honor of Scientists leading way to recovery

Karen Kett - In Honor of the Homeless

Faye Gordon - In Memory of Gary Gordon

Joan Chandler - In Memory of Dolly Bryan

**Bette Neumyer - In Honor of my husband and my 50th
wedding anniversary**

Graham Bryan - In Memory of Florine Bryan

Graham Bryan -In Memory of Nelle Bryan

Daniel Best -In Memory of Izzie Mae Best Cowdery

Judy/Wally Carlson-In Memory of Helen Silhan

Judy/Wally Carlson -In Memory of Jerry Silhan

Hermes/Margarita Morell -In Memory of Alfonso Padilla
Hermes/Margarita Morell -In Memory of Rev. Gorgio Morell
Frank/Mary Tirb -In Memory of Family
Bob/Gwen Snyder -In Honor of the Pearson's
Joan Campagna -In Memory of my Parents & Grandparents
Candy Thomas -In Loving Memory of Bob Zimmerman
Candy Thomas -In Loving Memory of Alma Zimmerman
Candy Thomas -In Loving Memory of Ezell Smith
Candy Thomas -In Loving Memory of Florence Kilpatrick
Candy Thomas -In Loving Memory of Ruth Primus
David Lane -In Honor of Nicaragua
Margaret Olson -For those in need
Ketzle's -In Memory of Margie Fickes
Jack & Rita Smith - In Loving Memory of Mercy, my Mom
Dot Thomas - In great Memory of loved ones.