

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 Campagna, Liturgist

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

March 28, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm/Passion Sunday

Preparation for Worship

“Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead are created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die.”

Richard Rohr



PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Leader: Today we enter Holy Week, with its cycle of life, death, and new life.

People: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

L: Jesus, the holy one, the whole one, enters Jerusalem as he rides on the back of a donkey. Crowds wave palm branches and cry out.

P: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

L: Jesus, holy one, enter the gates of our hearts today as we join you in the time of your Passion. With you, let us remember and celebrate your birth, your calling, your ministry.

P: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

L: Jesus, our mentor of wholeness, guide us through the streets of our journey. Open our eyes and our ears to the guiding of God's spirit who calls us to costly faithfulness and to joyous wholeness. Let us sing with all ourselves.

ALL: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven! Amen.

HYMN: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (NCH, No. 216)

- 1. All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.**
- 2. O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
the one called "God's beloved" of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you now high exalted, our melody we raise.**
- 3. As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

***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)

Awaken us, Loving God, to the possibilities this day may hold for us. Call us forth from our weary routines and meager faith. Stretch us beyond our limited understanding and cramped enthusiasm. Free us to sing “Hosanna” and wave branches and spread your love among those who have not experienced its power. Come to us, Gracious God, that we may fully experience your presence. Amen.

***BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

Leader: God be with you

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU

L: Let us give thanks to God most high.

P: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE.

L: Let us pray.

ALL: O GOD, WHO IN JESUS CHRIST TRIUMPHANTLY ENTERED JERUSALEM HERALDING A WEEK OF PAIN AND SORROW; BE WITH US NOW AS WE FOLLOW THE WAY OF THE CROSS. BLESS THESE PALMS WE WAVE TODAY. MAY THEY BE A REMINDER OF OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST. BUT MAY THEY ALSO BE A SIGN OF OUR GROWING CONVICTION AND GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. BLESS OUR HEARTS AS WE RELIVE THE STORY. AS THOSE WHO CAST THEIR PALMS AND THEIR DREAMS BEFORE A TRIUMPHANT CHRIST, MAY WE LAY DOWN OUR LIVES BEFORE YOU, SO THAT OUR DAYS WOULD BE YOUR PATHWAY AND OUR HEARTS, YOUR OPEN DOOR. ALL THIS WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF THE ONE FOR WHOM WE WAVE THESE PALMS, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29* NRSV

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC "The Palms" Jean Baptiste Faure

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

O Holy One, we are too distressed to notice that you join us in the parade.

We are too deeply grieved to be aware that you sit beside us at the table.

We are too busy sighing. We are too busy talking.

We have insisted upon our own answers.

We proclaimed our own knowledge about why bad things happen, about why the rich get richer, about why the world feels so broken.

We have assured ourselves that this is the way that things must be, but this life is in your hands.

Our lives are in your hands.

O Holy One, speak to us.

Fill our silences.

Comfort us with your love

so that we may find your understanding.

Trust us to find your answers

when we finally tire from our own.

Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE-Pastor

God opens our ears.

God speaks when we are silent.

God approaches us in the parade and at table in our denial and our praise to be our help.

Now and always. 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

What do we have to give? Time? Organizing skill? A listening ear? For what are we most thankful? Family? Friends? Education? Meaningful work and activities? The gift of life and breath? All good things we possess and all the time we enjoy on this earth are gifts from God? We are invited to a generous offering of thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

God of all true power and glory, we thank you that Jesus Christ came to Jerusalem not with a sword to challenge the power of this world, but with love, recognizing your authority in human life. Enable your church to choose your ways winning the victory over sin and death. Establish your righteous kingdom on earth. Use our gifts and our lives to your glory, through Jesus, who comes in your name. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING: “Mantos y Ramos Avila” arr. H&G

MESSAGE: “What Do the Palms Say?” Pastor Candy

CLOSING HYMN: “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty” (No. 215, NCH)

- 1. Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!
O Christ with brave humility,
On lowly colt, your road pursue,
as palms and cloaks are spread for you.**

- 2. Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!
As crowds of people come to see
And shout hosannas, lifting high
their praise for one about to die.**

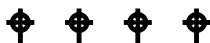
- 3. Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!
Ride on in humble dignity;
Behold the ones you came to save
from senseless life and endless grave.**

- 4. Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!
For you have set your people free
And we, remembering all your pain,
now meet again to hail your reign.**

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.

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

A MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE WORSHIP SERVICE will be held in the Garden Chapel on Thursday, April 1st 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 28, 2021 9:00 a.m.)

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

Meeting ID: 999 1845 6708 Passcode: 706854

FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY

Fellowship Hour via ZOOM at 12:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

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

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thanks to all who contributed, \$320.00 was raised!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Board of Christian Education will be taking a spring break March 31 and the last 3 Sunday's of April. April 4th will be our Family First Sunday AND Easter. We invite all children and youth to attend with your families. Easter surprises await!

BIBLE STUDY

**We will meet on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 29th. To Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82547685992>
Meeting ID: 825 4768 5992**

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:

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 28, 2021 – April 4, 2021

Sun. 28	9:00 a.m.	Prime Time ZOOM Meeting
	10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship in the Garden Chapel in person & on Facebook
	12:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hour via ZOOM
Mon. 29	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study via ZOOM
Thu. 1	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Worship Service, Garden Chapel
Fri. 2		Good Friday – Church Office Closed in observance
Sun. 4	9:00 a.m.	Prime Time ZOOM Meeting
	10:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship with <i>Holy Communion</i> in the Garden Chapel in person & on Facebook

LENTEN SCHEDULE

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

**Maundy Thursday, April 1st 6:30 p.m.
Garden Chapel**

**Easter Sunday, April 4th
Garden Chapel**