

# ***Christ Congregational United Church of Christ***

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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.*

April 4, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

## **Easter Day**

*Preparation for Worship: “Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.” — N. T. Wright*



**PRELUDE:**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RETURN OF THE ALLELUIA**

**INTROIT**           **“Sing Alleluia, the Lord Risen”**  
**Debbie Wanninkhof with Anasofia and Andy Godley**

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

One: Christ is Risen!

**All: Christ is risen, indeed!**

One: Hope is alive!

**All: Hope is alive, indeed!**

One: God’s love is eternal! Alleluia!

**All: Let us give thanks for what God has done. Alleluia!**

**HYMN: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (No. 233, NCH)**

- 1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!**
- 2. Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**
- 3. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

**\*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 grace and power, we come rejoicing in Christ's empty tomb.  
We come trusting in the good news that tells us Christ is with us.  
For the Risen Christ is living proof that You care about our lives, O  
God. The Risen Christ offers to us glimpses of hope, even in our tears.  
As the tomb is not quiet.  
It speaks. It proclaims! It is a promise of eternal life!  
Thank you, gracious and almighty God. Amen.**

*On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*

**John 20:1-18**

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid*

*him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Pachelbel Canon” Debbie Wanninkhof, violin**

## **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)***

**All: God of resurrection grace,  
Help us in our pain, despair and fear  
so we are not prone to follow the path of hopelessness.  
Help us to instead be like the Risen Christ,  
and rise up, as a brave and holy people,  
living beyond our pain, despair and fear  
by remaining hopeful in your steadfast love. Help us, we pray. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE-Pastor**

**God hears our prayers of grace and mercy,  
and raises our countenance from despair,  
into resurrection joy! God meets us in our human suffering,  
comforts us in our tears, and offers to us new hope, Alleluia!**

**PRAYER SONG: “Hear our prayer, O God” (No. 769, NCH)**

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

## **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**

**Now what? God's angels and the Risen Christ meet Mary Magdalene in her sorrow, and speak hope into her heart.**

**For the Resurrection narrative reveals that love is alive and moves among us! The Risen Christ helps us to remember that despair is not the end of our journey. The Risen Christ also speaks of God's ever-present love, and gives the church resurrection hope.**

**In that, as an Easter people, we manifest God's never-ending love in the world by the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources.**

**For it is with Christ's limitless and restorative love, that we humbly and graciously offer back to God a portion of what God has given us.**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)**

**God of love,**

**We offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts, and financial gifts as a sign of our love for you and the world.**

**We ask a special blessing on these gifts where you meet us in our suffering, and raise us up, so that all may come to know of your abiding love.**

**O God, we give these gifts as you have given them unto us.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING: "Canto Nuevo" Central American folk hymn  
arr. by Andy Godley**

**MESSAGE:      “Why Are You Weeping?”      Pastor Candy**

**COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”  
(No. 347, NCH)**

- 1. Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**
  
- 2. Christ is able to make us one,  
at his table he set the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**
  
- 3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **INVITATION**

**One: Christ is Risen!**

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

**One: Lift up your hearts.**

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **Communion Prayer**

**Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit;**

**Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love:**

**We praise you for Jesus Christ, who reminds us that even in fear-filled days, cloaked with the powers of death, your eternal love arises, and never leaves us.**

**For we rejoice with all your people and with the angels, because life is stronger than death!**

**As we proclaim the glory of your name:**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did; for our benefit.**

**On the night before Jesus died,  
He took a loaf of bread,  
Gave thanks, broke it, and said,**

**“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this, in remembrance of me.”**

**After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying,**

**“This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

**Presider places cup on the table**

**In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:**

**All: We remember Christ’s life of love, and friendship, and teaching,  
We remember Christ’s dying, and rising to life again.**

**One: Bless this bread and this cup,  
the wheat and the grape,  
the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower.  
These simple elements are shared in community,  
so that we may taste and see your goodness  
and become one body in Christ.**

**All: For it is through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
that all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forevermore. Amen.**

**One: The gifts of God for the people of God.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

**O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life.  
Fed by your love, and strengthened by your life;  
we humbly accept your call to go  
into this world to live with hope, and to share your joy.  
You commission us to feed as we have been fed,  
forgive as we have been forgiven, and love as we have been loved.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN: "The Day of Resurrection" (No. 245, NCH)**

- 1. The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad; the Passover of gladness, the Passover of  
God. From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.**
- 2. Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;  
and listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**
- 3. Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth her song begin!  
The whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.**

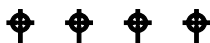
### **COMMISSION**

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

**"The Holy City"**

**Stephen Adams**





***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.**

**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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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: April 4, 2021 9:00 a.m.)**

**<https://zoom.us/j/99918456708?pwd=RWg0TUpsK0ZaUkJsRnN4bDNSZ1BMUT09Meeting> ID: 999 1845 6708 Passcode: 706854**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**The Board of Christian Education will be taking a spring break through April. TODAY is 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, April 5th. To Join Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82547685992> Meeting ID: 825 4768 5992**

**Thank You to Karen Kett for her generous donation of the Easter Lilies on the Altar today!**

**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, Ava, Jeffrey Gordon.**

**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**

***Give Thanks for What God has Done, Service prayers with Communion for Easter Sunday Year B*, was written by the Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume, pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ in West Palm Beach.**

**CALENDAR April 4, 2021 – April 11, 2021**

<b>Sun. 4</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Prime Time ZOOM Meeting Easter Sunday Worship with <i>Holy Communion</i> in the Garden Chapel in person &amp; on Facebook</b>
<b>Mon. 5</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bible Study via ZOOM</b>
<b>Sun. 11</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Prime Time ZOOM Meeting Sunday Worship in the Garden Chapel in person &amp; on Facebook</b>