

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Continued)*

**People:** We are overwhelmed with the attention required by the things of this earth.

Leader: God of the stars, lift us up:

**People:** We cannot see past the clouds of “truth” that some would have us believe.

Leader: God of the sun, lift us up:

**People:** We are dazzled by the false jewels of society.

Leader: God of the moon, lift us up:

**People:** We are taxed by others’ demands for us to shine for them.

Leader: God of the universe, lift us up:

**People:** We want to stretch and breathe and see and be awe-struck.

**All:** God of heights, lift us up. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** *(Pastor):*

Know that those who rely on God’s grace cannot be defeated. God loves us more than can be imagined—in that love, we find peace. Amen

**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** *(Pastor)*

Our lives have been richly blessed and so we raise our hearts in thanksgiving and stretch out our hands, not to receive, but to share! What a joy it is to return a portion of all we have received from God.

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(Unison)*

**Dear God, we offer our gifts as a sign of our gratitude to you for creating us to care for one another. We pray your blessings upon these gifts. May they serve as a sign of our love for you and the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

**MESSAGE:** “On the Clock!” Pastor Candy

**CLOSING HYMN: “Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! (No.257, NCH)**

- 1. Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne!  
Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone!  
Hark the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus, out of every nation you’ve redeemed us by your blood.**
- 2. Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.  
Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received you when the forty days were  
o’er, Shall our hearts forget your promise, “I am with you ever  
more.”**
- 3. Alleluia! Bread of angels, you on earth our food, our stay.  
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s Redeemer, plead for me,  
And the songs that sound in heaven will repeat your gracious plea.**

**COMMISSION**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

**The Ascension of Jesus**

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*) - Confession for Ascension Sunday

Leader: God of heights, lift us up:

**People: We are crawling in the mire of everyday routine.**

Leader: God of the heavens, lift us up:

himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

### **The Ascension of Jesus**

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

### ***Luke 24:44-53***

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that



### ***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**

*The lovely altar flowers are given today by Joan Chandler in memory of her father Thomas R. Bryan.*

### **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=RWg0TUpsK0ZaUkJsRnN4bDNSZ1BMUT09MeetingID:99918456708> Passcode: 706854

## **BIBLE STUDY**

We will meet on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. 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](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.

**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**—Please look out for an email from Lorrie and Antonia in the next few days with details about how each of you can be part of our May e-newsletter. We are looking for your stories and pix of each of you **BEING THE CHURCH!** More info will be sent to you all soon (And maybe we’ll let some of the adults participate too?!)

**TOY DRIVE FOR NICKLAUS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**— Shaina Kim, a tutoring student of Jeanette Smith’s, is collecting new toys for the hospital as a project to gain community service hours. If you’d like to donate new, unwrapped toys, excluding stuffed animals or violent toys, you may bring them to the church parking lot this afternoon from 1-2:20 p.m. Jeanette and Shaina will be present to accept community donations.

**GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE?** Please share the news with Pastor Candy. We will honor our graduates in worship on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

**O Jesus, we remember your presence with us, preaching on the hillsides, calling disciples to follow you, healing those who were sick, reaching out to the marginalized, feeding thousands with spare bread, and suffering for the sake of love. How we wish you could be with us forever... Then we hear a voice asking: Why are you looking towards the heavens?**

**We look out and see your presence whenever a word of truth is spoken, whenever someone chooses to follow in your way, whenever a sick one is made whole, and one who is marginalized comes into the circle, whenever one receives compassion and true justice is done, and another soul suffers for the sake of love. You are among us and we will live as your people. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

***(Acts 1:1-11)* THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Continued*)

Leader: Why do we live as if nothing has happened? Jesus Christ has been seen alive among us.

**People: We have come to challenge our unbelief. We have gathered to share in the story.**

Leader: When will we witness to all Jesus taught and did? We have been commissioned to share the joy.

**All: We want to sing and pray and clap our hands. We profess Jesus Christ as head of the church.**

**HYMN:** “When Morning Gilds the Skies” (No. 86, NCH)

- 1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer,  
One purpose I declare: may Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 2. New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Let sin and evil fear  
When this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 3. Discordant humankind, in this your concord find,  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 4. Be this while life is mine, my canticle divine,  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song  
Through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!**

***Dear Congregation,***

***I am writing this on behalf of Michelle. Your kindness, concern, and prayers, as well as your generosity, are very much appreciated. No words can adequately express our feelings of appreciation.***

***Sincerely, Michelle and Patricia Rakow (Michelle’s mom)***

**OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER** will be coming to you the last weekend of May. You will receive the worship bulletin and message from Pastor Candy each week.

**PENTECOST, THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH, IS NEXT SUNDAY. YOU ARE INVITED TO WEAR RED IN CELEBRATION IF YOU’D LIKE!**

**MEN’S DINNER:** There will be a men’s dinner on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Outback Steakhouse across from the Falls at 6:30 p.m. The address is: 13145 SW 89 Pl. Please let Wally Carlson know that you are coming at [carlsonwd@gmail.com](mailto:carlsonwd@gmail.com). Church members and friends are cordially invited!

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH!** This all-church special mission offering will be received on Pentecost, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year’s theme is “Renew!”

## PRAYER LIST

**The Rev. David Christensen, Maria Saunders, Mirta Oramas, Michelle Simone, Joan Hansen, Margie Diaz, 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, Jen Wood, Darius and Joy Reid, Jacquie Greene, Emmett Gainny, and Duyen Le.**

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. 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 May 9, 2021 – May 16, 2021

<b>Sun. 16</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<u>Prime Time ZOOM Meeting</u>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<u>Worship in the Sanctuary &amp; on Facebook</u>
<b>Mon. 17</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<u>Bible Study via ZOOM</u>
<b>Sun. 23</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<u>Prime Time ZOOM Meeting</u>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<u>Worship in the Sanctuary &amp; on Facebook</u>

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

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## **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.*

**May 16, 2021 – 10:30 am**  
**Seventh Sunday in Easter**  
**Mental Health Sunday**

**Preparation for Worship: “I live by grace to witness about the wonders of God.”**

**Lailah Gifty Akita**



## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Leader: Why do we stand looking up to heaven? The signs of God are all around us.

**People: We are here to remember and rejoice. We pray God will enlighten our eyes.**