

Christ Congregational United Church of Christ

14920 S. W. 67 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, FL 33158

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Web site: www.christcongregationalucc.org

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

Karen Kett , Liturgist

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

June 13, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

- ***Preparation for Worship: "There is no easy take-home message for us in these parables. They ask that we engage our imaginations to follow the possibilities and incongruities that we distinguish between a world where everything is planned, linear, and logical, to one filled with mysteries and surprises into which a sovereign God invites us." Sharon H. Ringe***



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Leader: We are gathered to give witness to the enduring realities of life.

People: We have come to affirm that life is a gift, that the gift is good, and that it comes from God.

L: We are gathered to renew our hope in Jesus Christ, as we travel life's long journey.

P: We find God in the paths of our present and our past, but we also trust in God's love in the future.

Leader: The same God guides us all the way, every day of our lives, and beyond life.

ALL: Let us praise God with our whole hearts and entrust our lives to God's hands. Amen.

***HYMN: "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In" (No. 73, NCH)**

1) Enter, rejoice and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.

Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

2) Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.

Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.

3) Open your hearts everyone. Open your hearts everyone.

Today Will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

4) Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.

Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.

5) Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.

Today Will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

***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)

**O God, maker of all that is beautiful,
Jesus gave us the seeds of your justice and peace.
In this time together, touch us, teach us, inspire us
to sow those seeds through our ministries
so that all may share in Creation's abundance
to make true the promise
that no one will know scarcity
and no one will suffer deprivation in this community and beyond. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 4:26-34 NRSV

The Parable of the Growing Seed

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

The Use of Parables

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Malaguena" Isaac Albeniz

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us take a moment of silence and reflect on our own lives, on our limitations, on our sins.

P: Gracious God, you are indeed generous.

You give us the gifts of the spirit which enable us to have so much.

We forget, however, that we have been recipients of other people's generosity.

Believing that what we have is ours,

we forget that all we have is yours.

Forgive us.

Help us to remember that being made in your image,

we should be as generous as you. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE-Pastor

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

By God's steadfast love for us, we are forgiven of our sins. Thanks be to God.

PRAYER SONG: "Spirit of the Living God" (No 283, NCH)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me: (2X)

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on 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-Pastor

Jesus' teachings give us many seeds to sow in this community and beyond. It is, however, through our offering that we can nurture these seeds so all may know the gospel's promise.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "*If*" David Gates

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

**You have been exceedingly generous to us, O God.
We return a portion of what we have to you in grateful thanksgiving.
Bless our offerings that they will nurture the seeds
of hope and healing in this community and beyond. Amen.**

Sermon: "*Small Things*" Pastor Candy

CLOSING HYMN: "*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*" (No. 565, NCH)

- 1) God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:**

Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

- 2) Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done: All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone; born with talents make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**
- 3) Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word. Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call, Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.**
- 4) Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way; From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day. Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span, God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.**

COMMISSION -Pastor

May God's love be with you as you sow seeds of justice and peace along the paths you will travel so all may know the gospel's promise. Amen

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Welcome to Everyone!

Whoever or whatever brought you to our Sanctuary 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 her cell phone (925-640-92890, text or email.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

CCC WOMEN'S Ladies Night Out

Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. CasaCuba Restaurant, 5859 SW 73 St.

South Miami, FL RSVP by June 28 to Bingo123@bellsouth.net

or text 304-608-3216 (Joan Chandler). If you need a ride let me know also.

PRAYER LIST:

Ted Hudson, Emmett Gainny, The Rev. David Christensen, Maria Saunders, Mirta Oramas, Michelle Simone, Joan Hansen, Margie Diaz, Magnus, Anita Smith, 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, and Duyen Le.

Michelle Simone, our Administrative Assistant continues to recuperate in the hospital. Cards may be sent to her home address:

16320 S.W. 95 Ave.

Miami, FL 33157

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

CALENDAR June 13, 2021-June 20, 2021

Sun. June 13	10:30 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary in person & on Facebook
	11:45	Congregational Meeting
Thurs. June 17	7 p.m.	Trustees/Council ZOOM meeting

Sun. June 20 10:30 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary in person &

**Special Congregational
Meeting**

The Property Task Force is calling a Special Congregational Meeting today, Sunday, June 13th at 11:45am. The meeting will follow worship in the Sanctuary. A Zoom invite has been sent out to all members, as well.

We will be discussing only one agenda item and taking a congregational vote regarding sale of church property.