

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
Joan Campagna , Liturgist**

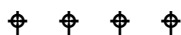
Our Vision: A church that listens, praises God, inspires, and serves others.

June 27, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Open and Affirming Sunday

Preparation for Worship: "We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference, and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity."--George Takei



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Leader: It has been a hard year. The losses from Covid, from gun violence, from racial injustice have all piled on, pulling us down in the depths of despair. Many of us have hit rock bottom.

People: Listen! The voice of comfort and love is calling! Listen and hear the voice of the Divine Comforter.

L: It has been a hard year. Anger, grief, despair. I watch people suffering and being oppressed. I feel the chains of oppression. Until we are all free, none of us can be free.

P: God never said that forgiveness was easy, but that it must become a habit we nurture. Forgive the world children, but also forgive yourself for feeling vulnerable and human.

L: I pray, and I pray, my life a prayer to God.

P: Wait for it – listen to God – and follow the wisdom found in prayer.

L: There are lives on the line here while we are waiting and watching.

P: Just as Israel watched and waited for freedom, for the return of hope.

L: With God's arrival comes love. With God's arrival comes generous redemption of hope.

P: Just as God redeemed Israel, from captivity to freedom, you too are free. You too are chosen. You ARE enough for God.

ALL: For God is love and we are God's Beloved, just as we are – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, queer, asexual, intersex, ally, cisgender, heterosexual. We are a family!

***HYMN: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (No. 506, NCH)**

1) What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

2) Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to our God in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to our God in prayer.

3) Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care?

**Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to our God in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer!
Jesus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

***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.

A LITANY OF FAITH AND HOPE (responsive)

LEADER: We are a garden:

ALL: A community of many different colors and varieties growing together. We all need water, sun, and soil to grow. We live alongside one another, respecting one another, maintaining our identities, like an iris and a carnation, both beautiful, both distinct and different, but still connected.

LEADER: We come together:

ALL: To discover we have a common language: the language of our children. our families, our communities. The language of hope. The language of God's incredible love for the world.

LEADER: We seek:

ALL: To know one another.

LEADER: We need:

ALL: To build on these experiences of community, to be full of care for people of all

faiths.

ALL: We believe in our children being friends with other children who may not look like them, who may hold different beliefs, who have different backgrounds.

We believe the barriers are in our minds; justice, peace, and understanding will ultimately prevail.

We believe we share a common origin as human beings; we are children of the same creator.

We believe in the dignity and worth of all human beings, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

We know the world is big enough for all of us, because we believe in a world of love and love creates space for all to live and thrive. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 5:21-43

NRSV

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her hemorrhages stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and

told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

**The freshness of God's mercy and love,
the continued generosity of God's gifts to us,
call for thanksgiving and generosity on our part.
This church stands because of the faithful generosity
of those who came before us, and its ministry grows today
because of the hopeful, expectant generosity that lives in us.
Let us gather our gifts together, then, and offer them to God
in gratitude, heartfelt commitment, and praise.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

**Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them
so we may be part of your great work in this world.
Through our giving, bring a brighter day of justice and love,
not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls.
Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ
so that we grow together each day
into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.**

SERMON: "Restored to Life "

Pastor Candy

CLOSING HYMN: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" (No. 547, NCH)

- 1) Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I 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
His word my hope secures;
He 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've first begun.**

COMMISSION -Pastor

**Deep in our hearts, we know that we are children of God.
Remember who you are, then, and walk in the assurance of God's presence and love
with you always, calling you beyond fear into belief and joy.**

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.

THANKS TO GRAHAM BRYAN and Andy Godley for sharing their musical gifts today while Jay Harrigan is on vacation.

A Litany of Faith and Hope, UCC Version, is adapted by Kimi Floyd Reisch.

AN UP TO DATE PRAYER LIST will begin July 4. Please let Pastor Candy know of names you’d like to have on the list.

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, 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.

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

CALENDAR
June 27 – , 2021

Sun. June 27	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)
Wed. June 30	7 p.m.	ZOOM Property Planning Task Force Meeting
Thurs. July 1	6:30 p.m.	CCC Women's Night Out
Sun. July 4	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)

Save the Date!

Thurs. July 1 at 6:30pm – CCC Women's Night Out
Casa Cuba Restaurant
5859 SW 73rd Street
South Miami, FL

- **RSVP by June 28th to Joan Chandler at email Bingo123@bellsouth.net or call/text at 305-608-3216.**
- **If you need a ride or wish to carpool, please let Joan Chandler know by 6/27**