

Christ Congregational United Church of Christ

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Web site: www.christcongregationalucc.org

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

Zoe & Lia Smith, Liturgists

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

August 1, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

FAMILY FIRST SUNDAY

Preparation for Worship:

“The lotus is the most beautiful flower, whose petals open one by one. But it will only grow in the mud. In order to grow and gain wisdom, first you must have the mud — the obstacles of life and its suffering. ... The mud speaks of the common ground that humans share, no matter what our stations in life. ... Whether we have it all or we have nothing, we are all faced with the same obstacles: sadness, loss, illness, dying and death. If we are to strive as human beings to gain more wisdom, more kindness and more compassion, we must have the intention to grow as a lotus and open each petal one by one.” — Goldie Hawn



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

One: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways.
This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel
to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

**Many: God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.
Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you.**

One: As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures—
faith, hope, and love.

**Many: God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.
All life is created and nourished by you!**

**All: May we grow into new circles of understanding and being,
reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.
Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.**

HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table" (No.332, NCH)

- 1) As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.**

- 2) Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

- 3) Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

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)

Life Sustainer, we receive the things you desire to offer us
today and each new day!

Grant us wisdom and openness to your Word
and use its teachings to energize our bodies and spirits.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 6:24-35

NRSV

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

God, we confess that we often spoon-feed ourselves items and ideas that do not provide us the energy we need to do your work.

This creates space between you and us,

between ourselves and each other, as members of Christ's one body.

Oftentimes, we are willing to risk our sustained health and well-being for immediate satisfaction. (*Moment of silence and reflection*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor

Through Jesus, we have been given an example of one who was truly nourished and sustained by God. In Christ, we are forgiven, made whole, and restored to the one body. Let us outwardly profess our Christian unity by offering each other a sign of peace.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Let us offer our loaves and fishes in the service of God's kingdom.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Let Us Break Bread Together* *American Spiritual*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

O God, we share these gifts in the spirit of those who shared their loaves and fishes: we ask that you take these gifts and use them to feed all of creation—to produce seed and grain, filling humans and animals alike, and to restore wholeness in the places where malnourishment exists.

SERMON: “Soul Food” Pastor Candy

COMMUNION HYMN: “I Come with Joy” (No.349, NCH)

- 1) I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

- 2) I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
in Christ’s communion bread, in Christ’s communion bread.

- 3) As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

- 4) And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy
that Christ is risen here, that Christ is risen here.

- 5) Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay
And go with joy to love the world
and live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

BREAD OF LIFE (*found on the back cover*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Eternal God, we thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "God Be With You" (No.81, NCH)

**1) God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

***Refrain* Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus; feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

**2) God be with you till we meet again; Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain (repeat 1X)

**3) God be with you till we meet again; When life's perils thick confound you.
Put unfailing arms around; God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain (repeat 1x)

**4) God be with you till we meet again; Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet
again.**

Refrain (repeat 1x)

COMMISSION Pastor

Let us go forth in faith in our Nonperishable God,
who gives us daily what we need to feed our bodies and spirits.
Our common need for nourishment unites us together as the body of Christ.
May the holy Bread of Life create sustenance for the journey,
calm for troubled stomachs, grace-filled movement for aching limbs,
and joyful activity for all bodies as we seek to live in sacred community. 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 (925-640-9289), text or email.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS DUE TO THE CONCERNING RISE IN COVID CASES IN FLORIDA.

PASTOR CANDY WILL BE ON VACATION from August 7th through August 21st. Our own Rev. David Lane will lead worship on August 8, 2021, and will provide emergency pastoral care.

LET’S HELP START THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR OFF RIGHT for the 9 Guardian Ad Litem children overseen by our 3 amazing and selfless GAL volunteers—Daniel Best, Margarita Morell, and Barbara Parker. We have a mixture of high school, middle school, and upper elementary school ages so all styles of backpacks and supplies are welcome. Financial donations are also accepted online (please let Judy Carlson know the designated amount), in the offering plate, or mailed to the office. Please contact Margarita Morell or Karen Kett (305-609-1919) with any questions. Donations will be accepted through August 8th.

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE! Please take a few minutes to fill out the blue “CARE FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY” form in and place it on the table as you exit the Sanctuary. This will be a help in our maintaining contact in the event of an emergency. Thank You!

CCC LADIES’ NIGHT OUT will be held on Thursday, August 12th at 6:30 p.m. at Di Papa’s Italian Restaurant located at 9877 Kendall Dr. just west of the RR tracks and S.R. 874. Please RSVP by Monday, August 9th to Joan Chandler, 305-608- 3216 or bingo123@bellsouth.net.

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

Ted Hudson’s Family, Emmett Gainny, The Rev. David Christensen, Michelle Simone, Joan Hansen, Anita Smith, Maggie McDowell, Wendy Olson, Sonya Williams, Jeffrey Gordon, Jen Wood, the Seara family, the Stainrod family, 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

August 1, 2021 to August 8, 2021

Sun. August 1	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)
Sun. August 8	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)