

Christ Congregational United Church of Christ

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The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

Margarita Morrell , Liturgist

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

July 18, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship: "You can dream, create, design, and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it requires people to make the dream a reality." – Walt Disney



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Leader: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned. A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

People: We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family. We remember those whose love has shaped our lives and those whose struggle for justice has been unsleeping.

L: We gather in our church to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

All: May God bless us, so what we do in this time together may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

***HYMN “God Is Truly With Us” (No. 68, NCH)**

***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*)

Caring and Gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes. Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:1-14 NRSV God’s Covenant with David

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that

the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

SPECIAL MUSIC “*The Shadow of The Dog*” by Graham Bryan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

O God, we live in a diverse community. There are people of different colors and abilities. There are people with different sexual orientations. There are people on the left and the right, young and old, rich and poor. Yet, our church doesn't reflect this diversity as much as we would hope. Help us to take down any barriers to being fully inclusive so we may welcome the stranger and truly be one community together. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We know we fall short in our discipleship.

We look to God to help us repent of our sins and transgressions and do better.

By God's overflowing steadfast love and mercy we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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

Think of the beginning words of the 23rd Psalm and the words we pray every week, “Give us this day our daily bread.” Taken together, God promises to provide us with what we need to live today so we may see tomorrow. When we think of what we actually have, though, we have more than enough. We give honor and thanks to God when we make our generous offering from our abundance.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Rock of Ages”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

**Thank you, God, for the ministries of the people of your church.
Thank you, God, for the bounty of your blessings you have poured out upon us.
We have taken a portion of our abundance and given it to you in grateful thanksgiving.
Consecrate this offering. May it help to support the ministries of this church that will dismantle the walls that divide us so all people will be one in the new family gathered in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERMON: “After the Dancing” Pastor Candy

CLOSING HYMN: “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” (No. 400, NCH)

COMMISSION Pastor

Jesus taught us that when we welcome the stranger we create a new community where all are one in God. Let us continue the work that Jesus started by welcoming the strangers who cross our paths knowing that God is with us and protects as we pursue our ministries of healing and hope. Proclaim God’s glory through your work. Go in peace.

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENT IN KELSEY HALL AFTER WORSHIP TODAY.

The lovely altar flowers are given by Cindy and Jim Ketzle in memory of their nephew Clint Hawkins.

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!

General Synod's concluding worship service is today at 6 p.m. Worship will stream live on the United Church of Christ YouTube and Facebook channels and on <General Synod.org>.

THIS MONTH'S MEN'S DINNER is planned for Wednesday, July 21, 2021. It will be at the Casa Cuba restaurant, 7859 S.W. 73rd Street, S. Miami. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. with conversation and fellowship. Please let Wally Carlson or Jim Ketzle know if you plan to come.

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, 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

July 18, 2021 to July 25, 2021

Sun. July 18	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)
Sun. July 25	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)