

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.

September 12th, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Faith Formation Sunday

Preparation for Worship: “The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” — Albert Einstein



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*) from Mark 8: 27-30**

Leader: Jesus asks the disciples:

“Who do people say I am?”

All: They answer,

**“Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah;
and others say one of the prophets.”**

L: But Jesus presses them:

“Who do you say I am?”

All: Peter answers,

“You are Christ—God’s anointed one, God-with-us!”

L: Now Jesus pushes us:

“What about you? Here, in this moment, in this community,
Who do you say I am?”

**All: In this time of worship may we each find the wisdom to answer,
“My Lord and my God!”**

PRAISE BAND

(NCH No. 2, 286, and 519)

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

**1) Glory, glory hallelujah,
since I laid my burdens down.**

**Glory, glory hallelujah!
since I laid my burdens down.**

**2) I feel better, so much better,
since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better,
since I laid my burdens down.**

3) Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!"

since I laid my burdens down.

Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!"

since I laid my burdens down.

4) I am dancing Miriam's dance now,

since I laid my burdens down.

I am dancing Miriam's dance now,

since I laid my burdens down.

5) I am climbing Jacob's ladder,

since I laid my burdens down.

I am climbing Jacob's ladder,

since I laid my burdens down.

6) Every round goes higher and higher,

since I laid my burdens down.

Every round goes higher and higher,

since I laid my burdens down.

Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

(Refrain)

1) You moved me on the waters, you called me to the deep,

then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;

And over the eons you called to each thing,

"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

2) You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,

and you goaded your people with a law and a land;

When they were confounded by their idols and lies,

then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

3) You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,

then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;

And down in the city you called once again,

when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

**4) You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.**

Standing In The Need of Prayer

**1) Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer;
Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer.**

Refrain

**It's me, it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer.**

**2) Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O God
standing in the need of prayer;
Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer. *[Refrain]***

**3) Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer;
Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer. *[Refrain]***

**4) Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer;
Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer. *[Refrain]***

***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*)**

Holy Wisdom of God

**You call to us from the depths of our hearts,
where we long for connection with you and with one another.
You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods,
Where human pain and possibility are most urgent.
You call to us from our sacred stories,
where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort.
Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and
help us see with your eyes
the ways which lead to beloved community
where Christ Jesus is at the center.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 8:27-38 NRSV

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Holy Spirit Rain Down

R. Frager

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Christ calls on us to “lose our life in order to save it”;

To “take up our cross and follow”

in the ways of justice and peace.

Like the disciples before us,

we are often amazed and overwhelmed by this command.

We close our ears to such challenge and

our hearts to such risk.

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's words and actions are never careless;

In sending Jesus Christ to the world, God offers a model and a companion,

A source of ever-flowing love and acceptance and wisdom.

In Christ we are forgiven all our failings and given strength to start again. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG: “O Lord, hear my prayer” *(Songs and Prayers from Taize)*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to 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

The psalmist declares, "The heavens are telling the glory of God.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge."
Let us share our gifts
so that we can also partake in telling others of God's glory!

MUSICAL OFFERING *Bridge Over Troubled Water* *P. Simon*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

**All-knowing God, teach us to use these gifts
to create greater access, insights, and wisdom
for people within and outside of these walls. So be it!**

SERMON: "Getting Behind Jesus"

***CLOSING HYMN: "Ask Me What Great Thing I Know" (No.49, NCH)**

**1) Ask me what great thing I know
that delights and stirs me so,
What the high reward I win,
whose the name I glory in:
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**2) Who defeats my fiercest foes?
Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my fainting heart,
healing all that grief imparts?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**3) Who is life in life to me?
Who the death of death will be?
Who holds all my days secure,
in God's heart where love is sure?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**4) This is that great thing I know;
this delights and stirs me so:
Faith in Christ who died to save,
Christ who triumphed o'er the grave,
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

***COMMISSION**

Let us ponder the challenge of Jesus this week:

–Who do we say Christ is in our lives, our community, our world?

Let Holy Wisdom shine through all our pondering,

and lead us to recognize and serve our Risen Savior in all our encounters.

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 before Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Call or text Pastor Candy at 925-640-9289; or send an email to cccpastor@att.net.

For Pastoral Care Needs, please call or text Pastor Candy at 925-640-9289. You may also call or leave a message at the Church Office, 305-235-9381.

Michelle Simone is now recuperating at the home of her mother. Her address is: % Patricia Rakow, 18464 S.W. 89 Court, Cutler Bay, FL 33189. Michelle's birthday is September 14th. It would be nice to surprise her with cards!

ONEBLOOD IS ON CAMPUS TODAY for those who wish to donate blood. Each blood donor will receive a \$20 eGift card, a pair of ONEBLOOD Cancer Awareness socks, and a T-Shirt. Wellness check-ups and various health screenings will also be available.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY BY PASTOR CANDY WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will be using the LISTEN UP! Bible study, part 1: John 1-11-44 which you may download for free. A link will be sent out in the weekly mailing.

CCC MEN mark your calendar for another dinner out with the guys. Please note that the dinner is planned for Thursday this month. Conversation and fellowship starts at 6:30 p.m. at The Chopsticks House located at 20553 Old Cutler Road. Please let Wally Carlson or me know if you plan to come.

CCC WOMEN will meet via Zoom on Saturday, September 18 at 10:30 for our monthly meeting and book discussion on The Henna Artist. All are welcome; here is your link to click and join in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6917354836> .

Youth Group Fall Kick-off BBQ AT CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UCC, 3010 DESOTO BLVD, CORAL GABLES, Friday, Sept. 17 at 7:00 p.m. Green Space (across from parking lot) Our CCC youth in grades 6-12 and their families are invited to join the Gables youth as we look to partner together in some faith-building, fun, and mission activities. Rev. Aaron Lauer writes, "This is a very informal gathering of food and fellowship. A great event for you to invite friends! Just show up and bring your appetite!"

SEPTEMBER 19TH IS JUST PEACE SUNDAY. PLAN TO BE PRESENT as we focus on the theme "Grow Justice, Know Peace."

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE CONCERNING RISE IN COVID CASES IN FLORIDA.

PRAYER LIST

Deena Chamberlin, Emmett Gainny, The Rev. David Christensen, Michelle Simone, Joan Hansen, Anita Smith, Maggie McDowell, Wendy Olson, Sonya Williams, Jen Wood, the Seara Family, the Bess Family, Duyen Le and Trisha.

For Pastoral Care Needs, please call *Pastor Candy* at 925-640-9289 or you may also call or leave a message at the Church Office, 305-235-9381.

***Our chancel bouquet is given in loving remembrance of Dolly Bryan
by her daughter, Joan Chandler.***

CALENDAR

September 12, 2021 to September 19, 2021

Sun. Sept. 12th	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)
	9:30 a.m.	ONEBLOOD
Wed. Sept. 15th	7 p.m.	Property Planning Task Force meets in Kelsey Hall
Fri. Sept. 17	7 p.m.	Get Acquainted Barbeque for Youth at Coral Gables Congregational UCC