

Christ Congregational United Church of Christ
14920 Southwest 67th Avenue, Palmetto Bay, Florida 33158

305-235-9381
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www.christcongregationalucc.org

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor
Jay Harragin, Director of Music
Ana Deo, Liturgist

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

September 5, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
FAMILY FIRST SUNDAY

Preparation for Worship: “The apostles remembered what many modern Christians tend to forget—that what makes the gospel offensive isn’t who it keeps out but who it lets in.” — Rachel Held Evans



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Leader: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

Congregation: We follow Christ’s example, and learn from one another!

Leader: Where are Jesus’ disciples, who thirst to know God’s ways?

Congregation: We follow Christ’s example, and learn from one another!

Leader: Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

Congregation: We follow Christ’s example, and learn from one another!

Leader: Thanks be to God for new beginnings,
for new opportunities to learn together!

Congregation: We follow Christ’s example, and learn from one another!

***HYMN “O God, Who Teaches Us to Live” (No. 359, NCH) verses 1,2,3,5**

**1/ O God, who teaches us to live and guides us on our way,
For all the teachers in our midst, we give you thanks and praise.**

**2/ For love that welcomes children in and holds them when they stray,
For knowledge hearts and souls receive, we give you thanks and praise.**

**3/ For wisdom skills, and confidence where wonder leads to faith,
For those who ask and those who hear, we give you thanks and praise.**

**5/ For all who follow teaching’s call with courage and with grace
To build a future for us all, we give you thanks and praise.**

***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*)**

Creator God—

We glory in the gift of your world. May we love and trust you enough today that we may open ourselves to hear your words as they are written on our hearts through scripture, word, and song. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 7:24-37

NRSV

The Syrophenician Woman’s Faith

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, ‘Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ But she answered him, ‘Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’ Then he said to her, ‘For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.’ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

(Continues)

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *(continued)*

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC *Prelude in F Minor*

J.S. Bach

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsive*)

Leader: Rabbi, Teacher Jesus,
You who taught thousands
And yet were willing to learn from the least of these,
We confess that we pretend to know
When in truth we still wonder.

**Congregation: Forgive our pretense,
That we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers,
To fresh ideas,
To one another,
To you.**

**Vulnerable Christ,
You who lived in generous love,
We confess that we have closed ourselves off,
That we have seen so much suffering
That we stop looking
Rather than see and respond to those in need.**

**Forgive our neglect
That we may care for one another
And follow in the example you set for us.
In your name we pray. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Disciples, followers, students of the living Christ,
know that you are forgiven always
and freed to begin anew
through God's everlasting mercy and love. 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

Leader: "Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor."

Let us celebrate our blessings with generosity
as we collect the offering for the work and worship of this congregation.

MUSICAL OFFERING *God Bless The Child* *Herzog and Holiday*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

Congregation:

**Generous God, you have made rich and poor,
powerful and vulnerable alike in your image.
Bless the gifts we have gathered today
that we may use them to protect the afflicted
and bring greater justice to your world. Amen.**

SERMON: **"Teaching the Teacher"**

COMMUNION 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 blind us
Nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels
To repeat the sounding joy.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Remembrance and Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: You hold the bread of heaven. Honor it.

It is consecrated to perfectly match your need. Receive it.

Unison: We eat it in hope.

Leader: You hold the cup of blessing. Honor it.

It is consecrated so you become one of the Saints of Communion.

Receive this one small sip – deeply.

Unison: We drink it in joy.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*Unison*)**

O God, we give you thanks that no one is over your table and no one is under your table, but that we all share your love together. We are in the midst of difficult times for all your children – illness, fire, heat, storm, earthquake, violence – and particular sorrows and griefs and decisions for those we know. We are so grateful that you have brought this Communion to us, so we may surround with its strength and comfort those we know, and search out those we do not know to offer hope and help widely and freely. amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

(No.23 , NCH)

**1/ There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the see;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgement given.**

**2/ For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.**

***COMMISSION**

Disciples of our Christian faith,
go now in great expectancy,
knowing that teachers can be found
in every corner of creation.

***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. You may 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 WILL BE ON CAMPUS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th from 10 to 12 a.m. 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.

THE NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON OCTOBER 3rd, WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY LED BY PASTOR CANDY WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

JUST PEACE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH. More information will be forthcoming.

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. Simply visit our church website, christcongregationalucc.org, and click "[ONLINE GIVING](#)" which will bring you to the secured Moon Clerk site. Any personal and financial information entered is then encrypted for your protection.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR IS SUSPENDED WHILE THE CONCERNING RISE OF COVID CASES IN FLORIDA CONTINUES.

CALENDAR

September 5, 2021 to September 12, 2021

Sun. Sept. 5th	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)
Mon. Sept. 6th		Labor Day (Church office closed)
Sun. September 12th	10:30am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)

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PRAYER LIST

Ted Hudson's Family, Emmett Gainny, The Rev. David Christensen, Michelle Simone, Joan Hansen, Anita Smith, Maggie McDowell, Wendy Olson, Sonya Williams, Jen Wood, the Seara family, Duyen Le, the family of John Richard Chapman, Taigan Douglas, Jace Dietl and the children, teachers and staff of Marlyn Baker's orphanage in Haiti.

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