

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

305-235-9381

christch@bellsouth.net

[www.christcongregationalucc.org](http://www.christcongregationalucc.org)

**The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor**  
**Jay Harragin, Director of Music**  
**Anita Smith, Liturgist**

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

**October 10, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.**

***Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week***

**Preparation for Worship: “You will find that it is necessary to let things go;  
simply for the reason that they are heavy.”**

**— Sayings**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather in the name of our God.

**All: The Disabled God, the God of Access, the God of Interdependence,  
the God whose Differences are Holy.**

Leader: How shall we worship this God?

**All: With sound and with silence, with raised hands and with stillness,  
with words spoken and unspoken, with deep thought and the inner  
movements of our souls.**

Leader: With every limit and ability of our bodies and minds, we will worship  
God.

**All: Praise be to God.**

**\*HYMN**     *"Just As I Am"*     (No. 207, NCH) *Words adapted by Jacob Nault*

**Just as I am, with this my plea,  
Thine image divine writ deep in me;  
Just so, thou bid me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, as thou made me,  
So wond'rously, so vuln'rably,  
With limits and abilities  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
Affirm me, lift me, and relieve;  
For all thy promises, I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down.  
For always, ever thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**\*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)***

**O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world.**

**Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone,  
it is hardly divided fairly.**

**There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day  
and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime.**

**May we remember that all we have comes from you  
and that you have entrusted to us all that we have.**

**May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us.**

**Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to end this  
disparity. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:****Mark 10:17-31****NRSV****The Rich Man**

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****SPECIAL MUSIC**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)**

Almighty and Holy One,  
we cannot begin to count all our possessions.  
We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements.  
We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years,  
and still we acquire more.  
We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in our communities  
who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.  
We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come to them in their need.  
But we, O God, need your forgiveness  
for we are more attached to our things than we willingly acknowledge.  
Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things more honestly  
so we can share our own abundance more equitably. Amen.

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things.  
True comfort comes from God's love for us  
and by responding with that same love to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger.  
By God's love we are forgiven. Let us do likewise. Amen.

## **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER SONG:**     *"Sweet Hour of Prayer" verse 1*

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Maker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.  
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!

## **TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER, *REIMAGINED***

Our God who is disabled, holy are your differences.  
May your work of inclusion be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Grant us access in all the ways we need.  
And forgive us for excluding others, as we forgive those who exclude us.  
Keep us away from the temptation of believing we're not enough,  
and deliver us from the evils of ableism.  
God, in you we find community, welcome, and belonging;  
now and forever. Amen.

## **OFFERING INVITATION**

We should not forget that our offering should be  
the first fruits of our labors which we dedicate to God.  
Not only do we honor God by this offering,  
but it also helps us not to keep the best of what we have for ourselves.  
By giving our first fruits to God,  
we help to ensure that those who have little will receive something  
and we who have much do not keep it entirely for ourselves.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)**

Generous God, we thank you for all that we have  
for all of it comes from you.  
We gratefully return a portion of what we have to you.  
May our offerings sustain and support  
the work of this church to close the disparity  
between those who have much and those who have little  
in this community. Amen.

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

**SERMON:** *"So Many Things!"*

**\*CLOSING HYMN: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" (No.493, NCH)**

**1/ O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me,  
my Savior and my Friend;  
I shall not fear life's struggles  
if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if you will be my guide.**

**2/ O let me hear you speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will!  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control!**

**O speak, and make me listen,  
O guardian of my soul!  
3/ O Jesus, you have promised  
to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory  
your servant shall be, too;  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow  
my Savior and my Friend!**

**\*COMMISSION**

**\*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](mailto:cccpastor@att.net).*

**THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING IS BEING LIVESTREAMED THIS YEAR.** You are invited to [register here](#) to attend programs and the Saturday business meeting.

**CCC WOMEN** will meet for lunch at Saffron Indian Restaurant at 12663 S Dixie Hwy at 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 23rd. Please RSVP by October 21st to Joan Chandler [bingo123@bellsouth.net](mailto:bingo123@bellsouth.net). Please check out the new book choices for our November 20th meeting. RSVP by October 8th. If you would like to add a book, please e-mail me the information.

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY** led by Pastor Candy is offered each Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We are using the LISTEN UP! Bible study, part 1: John 1-11-44 which you may download for free.

### PRAYER LIST

Deena Chamberlin, The Rev. David Christensen, Joan Hansen, Anita Smith, Maggie McDowell, the Olson Family, Sonya Williams, Jen Wood, the Seara Family, the Bess Family, Duyen Le, Tricia and Shirley and Family in Her Passing.

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.

**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](http://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.*

**CALENDAR**

**October 10, 2021 to October 17, 2021**

<b>Sun. Oct. 10th</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship (Sanctuary &amp; Facebook Live)</b>
<b>Sun. Oct. 17th</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship (Sanctuary &amp; Facebook Live)</b>