

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Where does it hurt?

People: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the voices of our children.

L: What do you hope?

P: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the hopes of children and to nurture the hope within each of us.

L: How can we help?

P: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear how we can help in partnership with those who are hurting, as ones who are hoping.

L: Who are you and why are you here?

P: We gather this morning as God's people to worship God, in confidence that God hears our hurts and hopes before they are even on our lips, and calls us, as God's partners, to help with a passion for justice and hearts full of love.

All: Come, let us worship God on this Children's Sabbath day.

***HYMN** *“Little Children, Welcome”* (No. 323, NCH)

1/ Little children, welcome!
Earth is yours to live in;
arms of love protect you,
little children*, welcome!

2/ Little children, welcome!
Jesus cares about you;
Jesus now enfolds you,
little children, welcome!

3/ Little children, welcome!
We, the Church of Jesus,
we will help your growing,
little children, welcome!

4/ Little children, welcome!
God will make you happy,
Jesus save and keep you,
little children, welcome!

***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, by your Spirit quiet our minds, center our hearts, and open our ears that we might hear the word you speak to us through the Word written and proclaimed. Help us to listen so deeply and truly that we might be prepared to go out and loudly live your Word in the world, raising a ruckus for justice, speaking boldly for love, for the sake of your beloved children. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: **Mark 10:35-45** **NRSV**

The Request of James and John

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, ‘Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.’ And he said to them, ‘What is it you want me to do for you?’ And they said to him, ‘Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?’ They replied, ‘We are able.’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.’

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, ‘You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Whispering Hope" A. Hawthorne

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves. None of us is perfect; we all make mistakes. God knows that. If we confess our sin, we open ourselves to receive the gift of God's forgiveness and recognize a fresh start to do better. Wow, what a relief! Trusting God's promise, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Loving God, we confess that often we fail to hear the voices of those who are young, impoverished, and hurting. We ignore the voices of those who speak in other languages, come from other communities, have different life experiences than our own. We turn away from voices that call us to account, or to commit, or to sit with their pain. We privilege the voices of those in positions of power, with status and wealth, or who tell us what we want to hear. O God, when Jesus put a child amid the disciples squabbling about position, he reminded us what is important. Forgive us for again missing the mark. Remind us to hush and heed the voices of children and young people. Open us to what they have to teach us, for ways they might lead us to more faithfully be your people who love and listen, heal and prevent harm, and pursue your ways of peace and justice. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Listen to me! I have good news to share: God is for us. God never gives up on us. God will always love us. Let us live our lives with love and joy in that knowledge. Thanks be to God.

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 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 came not to be served but to serve.
Let us follow this example and share our gifts
so that we may also experience the joys and challenges of serving.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Parent God, may this offering assist us
in continuing Christ's work in the world
to heal the grief, transgressions, and illnesses
that oppress and harm your children. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *"Why Me, Lord?"* K. Kristofferson

SERMON: "Where Does It Hurt?"

***CLOSING HYMN:** *"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"* (No.539, NCH)

1/ Wont you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

2/ We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;

We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

3/ I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

4/ I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

5/ I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

***COMMISSION**

Be strong and let your heart take courage. Go forth with the listening love of God to hear our children; Go forth with the tender love of Christ to heal our children; Go forth with the empowering love of the Spirit to seek justice with our children; On this Children's Sabbath day and ever more. 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.

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

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.*

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. Please check out the new book choices for our November 20th meeting.