

Christ Congregational United Church of Christ
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www.christcongregationalucc.org

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

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

October 3, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Neighbors in Need Offering/World Communion Sunday

***Preparation for Worship: “If we show the Lord’s death at Communion,
we must show the Lord’s life in the world. If it is a Eucharist on
Sunday we must prove on Monday that it was a Sacrament.”***

Maltbie Davenport Babcock



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – *by Ana and Tod Gobledale, Global Ministries Associates serving in the United Kingdom*

One: We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers.

Many: We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service.

One: Where in the world shall we serve our God?

Many: At home and school and business place – in this community and throughout every land.

One: How in the world shall we serve our God?

Many: By working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred.

One: Why in the world shall we serve our God?

Many: Because the Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the one who calls us!

***HYMN "In Christ There is No East or West" (No.395, NCH)**

**1/ In Christ there is no east or west,
in Christ no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**2/ In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find.
God's service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**

**3/ In Christ there is no Jew or Greek,
and neither slave nor free;
whate'er your race may be.
For men and women live in God
and all are kin to me.**

**4/ In Christ now meet both east and west,
in Christ meet south and north.
One joyous, true community
throughout the whole wide earth.**

***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*)**

Wise, nurturing, and welcoming God, thank you for inviting us into new understandings of your love and for lifting and holding us together in this holy space. As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, we rejoice in the ways that your children are connected through your son, Jesus Christ. Bless our special offering today so that the gifts we present will be multiplied and shared around the world. Sovereign God may your majestic name be praised in all the earth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 14:15-31 NRSV

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC *My Peace* (*Keith Routledge*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Loving God, we confess that we have not accepted the challenge of your peace in the world. We define peace in ways that preserve our own self-interests, forgetting that your peace may call us to great sacrifice. We are content to believe that speaking of peace is sufficient, forgetting that your peace calls us to action and transformation. Merciful God, forgive our lack of imagination and courage, and empower us to strive anew to make our world a place in which your loving peace abounds. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We cannot undo most mistakes in the past, but you give us chance upon chance to do better in the future. Thank you for never giving up on us!

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

We give thanks for the planet we share with all of God’s creation and for imagining a world-made-new. Let us share what we have as one way of creating a world free from hunger, poverty, and oppression. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*Unison*)

All life comes from you, O God, the air around us and our ability to breathe. Our financial well-being and our ability to earn it. All life is a gift. Let us take our place in the circle, taking what we need with one hand, passing on what another needs with the other. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Day By Day

(Stephen Schwartz)

SERMON: "My Peace"

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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

For the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of cup, we thank you, O God. For the community that you have restored in us through the sharing of life, we thank you. For the courage and strength that you have promised to us for living as your followers, we thank you. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "O For a World" (No.575 , NCH)**

1/ O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

2/ O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

3/ We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voce.

4/ The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

5/ O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

***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.

THE NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED TODAY. PLEASE BE GENEROUS! [Give to NIN](#)

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

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, 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 3, 2021 to October 10, 2021

Sun. Oct. 3rd	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)
Sun. Oct. 10th	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)

The chancel flowers gracing the altar this morning are given in appreciation for the vaccines and boosters created for our protection and to the scientists behind the lifesaving labor.

~The Carlsons~