

***Christ Congregational United Church of Christ***  
***A church that listens, praises God, inspires, and serves others.***

**14920 Southwest 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Palmetto Bay, Florida 33158**

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**[christch@bellsouth.net](mailto:christch@bellsouth.net)**

**305-235-9381**

**The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor**

**Jay Harragin, Director of Music**

**Graham Bryan, Musician**

**Anita Smith, Liturgist**

**January 9, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.**

**The Baptism of Christ**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

***Preparation for Worship***

***“So I followed that preacher man down to the river***

***And now I’m changed***

***And now I’m stronger***

***There must’ve been something in the water.”***

***–Carrie Underwood***



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall:  
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**All: In baptism, our Creator claims us  
and frees us from the power of hatred and death.**

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ  
and we are joined together in unity, recalling

**All: "There is no longer Jew or Greek  
there is no longer slave or free  
there is no longer male or female  
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."**

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry  
and makes us signs of divine love.  
It is the mark of acceptance into the church  
and the beginning of our growth  
into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**All: Therefore, on this day,  
the whole church, the Body of Christ,  
remembers and celebrates.  
Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation" (No.407, NCH)**

**1/ How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!  
What more can God say than to you has been said,  
to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2/ "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand  
upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."**

**3/ "When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;  
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
delivering you from your deepest distress."**

**4/ "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed  
your soul to make pure just as gold is refined."**

**5/ "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

**God, who spoke words of love for Jesus at his baptism, and who yet speaks words of love for us at the font, be present. Speak to us anew this day that we may speak boldly of you in a world that desperately longs to be re-created in your love. Amen.**

**\*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."**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:****Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

*The Baptism of Jesus*

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****SPECIAL MUSIC****PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) (based on Isaiah 43: 1-2)**

**Gracious God, we confess that too often we live  
as though we are fearful, not faithful.**

**When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion,  
we don't easily pass through them,  
but we obsess about the height of the water  
instead of the sight of the other side.**

**You promised to walk through the rivers with us.**

**Help us believe.**

**And help our unbelief.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

One: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine."

This is the good news!

**All: I belong to God.**

## **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER SONG:** "I Need You Every Hour" (No. 517, NCH)

**I need you every hour, O God of grace,  
The peace your voice affords, I now embrace.  
I need you, how I need you! Every hour I need you;  
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to you.**

## **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**

When we give our tithes and offerings,  
we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ.  
I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

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

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.  
Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.  
And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen**

### **MESSAGE**

## Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God,  
to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
to resist oppression,  
to show love and justice,  
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ,  
as best you are able?

***People: I do, with the help of God.***

Pastor: And do you promise, according to the grace given to you,  
to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church,  
celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the world?

***People: I do, with the help of God***

### **POURING AND BLESSING OF WATER**

#### **BLESSING WITH WATER AND WORD**

In response to the rich blessings of God, signified by our baptism, anyone is invited to come forward who wishes to do so, in celebration of the blessings, and in affirmation of their desire to live as sacraments of God's presence.

#### **HYMN: "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" (No. 351, NCH)**

1/ "I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell." *(continues)*

**HYMN: "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" (continued)**

**2/ "When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk 'till rising sun."**

**3/ In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in,  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise."**

**4/ "I was there to hear your boring cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold."**

**\*UNISON PRAYER**

**O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: “Go, My Children with My Blessing” (No.82, NCH)**

**1/ “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.**

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.**

**In my love’s baptismal river**

**I have made you mine forever.**

**Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

**2/ “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

**Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.**

**Here you heard my dear Son’s story,**

**here you touched him, saw his glory.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

**3/ “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.**

**Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.**

**Here my Spirit’s power filled you,**

**here my tender comfort stilled you.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

**\*SENDING FORTH WITH GOD’S BLESSING**

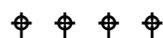
Remember this week whose you are. And remember God’s promise relayed through the prophet Isaiah,

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.”

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

**\*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.

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Wedding Ceremony for Lorrie LeGrand and Jose Otalora on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Church Members and Friends are invited to be part of the service on CCC's Facebook Livestream. In-Person attendance is limited to invited guests due to COVID safety protocols.

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**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)

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WILL BE SUSPENDED ON MONDAY JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**CCC WOMEN** – Please join us for the Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> CCC Women's monthly Zoom meeting and book discussion of "*The Last Thing He Told Me*" by Laura Dave (voted best mystery/thriller of 2021 by Goodreads). We will do some planning for 2022 on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. Zoom ID 691 735 4836 for both meetings.

### **PRAYER LIST**

Deena Chamberlin, The Rev. David Christensen, Carol Christensen,  
Joan Hansen & Family, Maggie McDowell, Don and Peggy Olson & Family,  
Carolyn Campbell, and Marlene Shulman.

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.

### **CALENDAR**

#### **JANUARY 9, 2022 to JANUARY 16, 2022**

SUN. JAN. 9 <sup>TH</sup>	10:30 AM	WORSHIP (SANCTUARY & FACEBOOK LIVE)
MON. JAN. 10 <sup>TH</sup>	6:30 PM	<i>BIBLE STUDY CANCELLED</i>
SAT. JAN 15 <sup>TH</sup>	3:00 PM	WEDDING CEREMONY FOR LORRIE & JOSE
SUN. JAN. 16 <sup>TH</sup>	10:30 AM	WORSHIP (SANCTUARY & FACEBOOK LIVE)

**DEADLINE FOR GETTING YOUR ANNUAL REPORTS TO MIRIAM IS JAN 16<sup>TH</sup>!**

ONLINE GIVING - You may click on the "Give Online Today" button at the bottom  
of the e-newsletter or visit CCC at [christcongregationalucc.org](http://christcongregationalucc.org) and click "online  
giving" to reach the secured Moon Clerk site where you will enter credit card  
information.

*Thank you, Joan Campagna for the gift of our lovely altar flowers this week,  
which are given in loving remembrance and honor of her ancestors.*