

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

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The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor
Jay Harragin, Director of Music
Graham Bryan, Musician
Daniel D. Best, Liturgist
Judy & Wally Carlson, Ushers

February 27th, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.

TRANSFIGURATION

SEMINARY SUNDAY/CHURCH VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Preparation for Worship

“...he liked his transcendence out in plain sight where he could keep an eye on it—say, in a nice stained-glass window—not woven through the fabric of life like gold threads through a brocade.”

Neal Stephenson, *The Diamond Age*



*Please stand, if it is comfortable for you to do so,
where the * indicates.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Something drew us together this morning

All: Something we can't name, but which we experience in worship.

One: Some holy mystery we call God.

All: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus.

One: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit.

**All: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears
and prepare us to love the world.**

***HYMN: "Higher Ground" (No. 469, HFG)**

Refrain:

*Lord, lift me up, and let me stand
By faith, on heaven's tableland;
A higher plane than I have found,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

1/ I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground." [Refrain]
(cont.)

***HYMN:** "Higher Ground" (No. 469, HFG) (*cont.*)

2/ My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground. [*Refrain*]

3/ I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught a joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground. [*Refrain*]

4/ I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground." [*Refrain*]

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

**O God, you are beyond words and description,
your love is beyond knowledge and explanation.**

Make our hearts ready to receive you.

Change us, we pray, that our lives may reflect the glory of your transfiguration.

We rejoice in the power of your Holy Spirit. 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 9: 28-43a****NRSV****The Transfiguration**

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**SPECIAL MUSIC****"Sensual"****Astor Piazzolla**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsive*)

One: Peter, James, and John went up on the side of a mountain with Jesus and experienced glory.

But then Peter wanted to stay.

“It’s good for us to be here. Let’s get comfortable.”

We are also often tempted to keep the experience of the Divine to ourselves, to enjoy the company of the saints instead of going back down the mountain to continue the work of the Kingdom of God.

God knows this temptation of our hearts,
so let us confess and pray for forgiveness.

**ALL: God of glory and light,
forgive us when we are complacent and comfortable
with keeping the riches of your love to ourselves.
Keep calling us down from our mountains of privilege.
Keep expecting more of us as your disciples.
Keep reminding us to listen to your Son,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Whether we hear a voice from the heavens
or a still small voice in our hearts,
listen carefully for the love of God.
Believe and accept God’s love and live in God’s freedom.

All: We believe! Thanks be to God!

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG: “Spirit of the Living God” (No. 283, NCH)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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

The needs of our world are too numerous to name.

Shelter, food, clean air and water...

Our gifts touch these needs,

but the biggest gift we can give is to love the world
so much that we give of ourselves.

Nothing will transform need more than sacrificial love.

So as you give your offering today,
don't let your giving be done.

Start planning to go deeper. May God now bless our hopes and dreams.

MUSICAL OFFERING *"Lord of the Dance" featuring Robert Snyder*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Bless these gifts, we pray.

**May they represent just the beginning of our journey
to show forth your glory to the world. Amen.**

SERMON: "The Shining"

***GOING FORTH SONG: "When the Saints Go Marching In"**

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN
OH, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN
HOW I LONG TO BE IN THAT NUMBER
WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN!

I WANT TO JOIN THAT HEAVENLY BAND
I WANT TO JOIN THAT HEAVENLY BAND
I WANT TO HEAR THOSE HEAVENLY TRUMPETS,
WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN!

***COMMISSION (*Unison*)**

May God now send us back down the mountain of our worship.
We have been changed.
We can't be silent anymore.
We have seen the Light of the World.
Go and share the radiance of love!

***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.

"The Indescribable Radiance of Love": Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday, was written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr.

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION after worship today in Kelsey Hall. This will be a time of laughter and frivolity before the more reflective and somber season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. There will be a King Cake that contains baked a special crown. Whoever gets the crown in his/her piece of cake will be the Keeper of the Alleluia. The Keeper will get to keep safe our Alleluia banner until Easter Sunday, when she/he leads our worship procession holding high the Alleluia and hanging it across the front of the communion table. There will be Mardi Gras decorations, balloons, masks, beads, and jazz music. This special event is planned jointly by the Ministry of Mission and Outreach and CCC Women.

LOOKING AHEAD... The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. Plan to be present at our 7 p.m. worship service in the Sanctuary or on Facebook.

***PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO BE ON ONE OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES! THEY ARE: MINISTRY OF CHURCH AND SPIRITUAL LIFE
MINISTRY OF PROPERTY, PERSONNEL, & FINANCE
MINISTRY OF MISSION AND OUTREACH***

Contact Pastor Candy for more details.

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE! THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY you have had the opportunity to donate \$10 to purchase a Church World Service blanket in memory or in honor of a loved one. For each donation a heart will be pinned to a sample CWS blanket displayed in the front of the Sanctuary. These blankets are donated to people in need in our country and around the world. This is a project of our Ministry of Mission and Outreach.

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

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY led by Pastor Candy is offered each Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. [ZOOM](#) Meeting ID: 825 4768 5992

PRAYER LIST

Carolyn Campbell, Deena Chamberlin, The Rev. David Christensen, Carol Christensen, Joan Hansen, Maggie McDowell, Don and Peggy Olson & Family, Marlene Shulman, Jim Ketzle, J.J. Ketzle, and the family & friends of Ileana Cassanova.

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

FEBRUARY 27, 2022 TO MARCH 6, 2022

SUN. FEB 27TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP (SANCTUARY & FACEBOOK LIVE) FOLLOWED BY A MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION IN KELSEY HALL
WED. MAR 2ND	7 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP (SANCTUARY & FACEBOOK LIVE)
SUN. MAR 6TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP (SANCTUARY & FACEBOOK LIVE)

ONLINE GIVING - You may click on the “Give Online Today” button at the bottom of the e-newsletter or visit CCC at christcongregationalucc.org and click “online giving” to reach the secured Moon Clerk site where you will enter credit card information.

***OUR ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY KAREN AND DAN KETT
IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 34TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY***

