

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

Karen Kett, Liturgist

Wally Carlson, Usher

April 17, 2022 | 10:30 AM

EASTER

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

**“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people
and hallelujah is our song.”**

— Pope John Paul II (Karol Wojtyła)



PRELUDE

***RETURN OF THE ALLELUIA — Hermes Morell**

***SINGING OF THE ALLELUIA" (No.765, NCH)**

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST (You may greet others with the words "The peace of Christ be with you." The response is, "And also with you". Hugs, handshakes, or fist bumps are optional as you are comfortable.)**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is the day that God has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia!
Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

One: Out of the doom of death and despair,
Victory comes, glory appears.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia!
Christ is risen; he is risen indeed!**

One: We shall live, witness, and recount the deeds
Of the God whose love endures forever.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia!
Christ is risen; he is risen indeed!**

***HYMN: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (No. 233, NCH)**

**1/ Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**2/ Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**3/ Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened Paradise, Alleluia!**

**4/ Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

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

**O, Redeeming God,
Like Mary of Magdala weeping at the tomb,
we, too, have witnessed the wonders of your work
with our own teary eyes.
In this hour, O God,
Elevate us in Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit,
so that others may be awakened through our
preaching and proclaiming the good news:
news of healing, peace, justice, and community for all people.
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 LESSONS: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (NRSV)

Psalm 118

A Song of Victory

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!**

**Let Israel say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'
The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.**

**There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.
The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.**

**Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.**

**This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it. *(Continued)***

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *(Continued)*

**I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

**This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

John 20:1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

YOUTH MESSAGE

CHOIR ANTHEM "The Holy City" Adolfo Adams

INVITATION TO CONFESSION — Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

One: God, you call us to step out of the tombs that aim to consume us and more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence. In stillness and in silence, let us acknowledge the ways we have been separated from the richness of who you have called us to be.

(*Moment of silence*)

All: We admit that we have not always remembered the creative power of resurrection. In a world where dreams and joy have been entombed, and chaos is celebrated and normalized, we have not always considered the divine ingenuity at work that calls us toward the ways of peace, love, and hope. Although we may have strayed from the places where we meet you, we trust that not even death can separate us from you and the creative ways you show your love for us.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE — Pastor

We know that you can bring us back to life, O God—
That you will meet us in the shadows and remind us that there are no limits to this life. With the fresh breath of the Holy Spirit, we are revived. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG: "More Love to You, O Christ" verse 1 (No.456, NCH)

**More love to you, O Christ, more love to you!
Hear now the prayer I make, faith to renew.
In all I say and do, more love, O Christ to you,
more love to you, more love 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 — Pastor

One: The gifts that we bring to this community compound and create resurrection power, helping us to awaken wholeness in the broken, strength in the weakened, and liberation for all living in the midst of injustice. Let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

MUSICAL OFFERING “A Toi la Gloire” Handel

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community, help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors, and do our part to liberate all who are experiencing oppression, we dedicate these gifts. Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be the resurrection we need to see in the world.

SERMON: “Easter As a Verb”

***COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” (No. 347, NCH)**

Refrain:

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

**1/ Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard. *[Refrain]***

**2/ Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *[Refrain]***

**3/ Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! *[Refrain]***

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*Unison*)**

O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life.

Fed by your love,

and strengthened by your life;

we humbly accept your call to go

into this world to live with hope,

and to share your joy.

You commission us to

feed as we have been fed,

forgive as we have been forgiven,

and love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GOING FORTH SONG: "The Day of Resurrection" (No.245, NCH)**

**1/ The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.**

**2/ Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal
in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings
once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow
and raise the victor strain.**

**3/ Now let the heavens be joyful,
let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen,
our joy that has no end.**

***COMMISSION and BENECTION — Pastor**

***As you go forth, may you be reminded of the creative renewing energy of God.
May you be witnesses of the wonders of God's work in the world through Christ.
May you be reminded of the possibilities of victory and glory amidst death and
despair. And may God bless you and be gracious to you and give you peace.
Amen.***

***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.

TODAY WE SHARE IN THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION.

ALL WHO LOVE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ARE WELCOME AT HIS TABLE.

From the Tomb Service Prayers for Easter Sunday Year C were written by Rev. Mia M. McClain, the Associate Minister at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC and a member of the Southern Conference UCC.

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENT has resumed in Kelsey Hall following worship. Sign-up sheets are available to donate goodies and to help clean up afterward.

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

OUR CHURCH NURSERY IS AVAILABLE IN KELSEY HALL.

ALTAR FLOWERS MAY BE DONATED IN HONOR OF A SPECIAL PERSON OR OCCASION! Please call the office and speak to Miriam or leave a message. You may also contact Miriam BY PHONE or TEXT at 786.362.4051. Or send your request to the church email. The flower calendar has been retired.

APRIL FOOD DRIVE FOR THE MARK KRUMICH PANTRY! It's time to restock the shelves that provide essential nutrition and necessities to the families who visit the MK Pantry at Ruth Owens Kruse School. Outreach Ministry will collect food items, \$25 Publix and Walmart gift cards, and financial donations. Food bins will be in Chapel and Kelsey. Financial donations can be given in the Sunday plate, online or delivered to the office. Please consider donating items with the approach of Hurricane season in mind.

PRAYER LIST

Carolyn Campbell, The Rev. David Christensen, Carol Christensen, Joan Hansen, Maggie McDowell, Don and Peggy Olson & Family, Marlene Shulman, Jim Ketzle, J.J. Ketzle, Carol Yemple and son, Darius Reid, and the family & friends of Ileana Cassanova, Sonya Williams, Jose Otorora, and Kati Hudder.

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

APRIL 17, 2022 TO APRIL 24, 2022

SUN. APRIL 17TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP (SANCTUARY & ON FACEBOOK LIVE)
MON. APRIL 18TH	6:30 P.M.	ZOOM BIBLE STUDY
SUN. APRIL 24TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP (SANCTUARY & FACEBOOK LIVE) CHURCH AND SPIRITUAL LIFE MEETS AFTER WORSHIP OUTREACH & MISSION MEETS AFTER WORSHIP

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.

Benefit



Concert for
Classical to Country
UKRAINE

April 30, 4-5pm

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
14920 SW 67 AVENUE
PALMETTO BAY, FL 33158

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ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE UCC
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