

Christ Congregational United Church of Christ
A church that listens, praises God, inspires, and serves others.
14920 Southwest 67th Avenue, Palmetto Bay, Florida 33158 | 305.235.9381
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NOVEMBER 13, 2022 | 10:30 AM
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"It is not what I do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through me. God does not want worldly successes, He wants me. He wants my heart in submission to Him. Life is not just a few years to spend on self-indulgence and career advancement. It is a privilege, a responsibility, a stewardship to be lived according to a much higher calling, God's calling. This alone gives true meaning to life" — **ELIZABETH DOLE**

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor
Jay Harragin, Director of Music
Graham Bryan, Musician
Margarita Morell, Liturgist
Tracy Nodarse, Usher

Please call or email the office to reserve a date to honor, celebrate or commemorate a special someone or event with flowers!

NEXT WEEK'S BOUQUET IS AVAILABLE FOR RESERVATION!



***You may stand or remain seated as indicated by the ***

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT — John Deo

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)*

One: We have come into this house, built by the Holy One, to worship the God of Creation.

People: We have come to listen to the stories of people who throughout the generations have shown us the way by their trust in the promises of God who is always watching over us.

One: The widow who gives her last coins reminds us of the risks we are free to take with confidence that God will take care of us through times of plenty and times of want, all along our journey of life.

All: So let us celebrate this gathering which can bind us together in our commitment to live our faith. Let us worship God!

***HYMN "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" | NCH No. 565**

1/ God, whose giving knows no ending,
From your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Off'ring up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

2/ Skills and time are ours for serving
that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne.

3/ Treasure, too, You have entrusted,
Gain through pow'rs Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

4/ Lend your joy to all our giving,
let it light our pilgrim way:
From the night of anxious keeping
loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over
and we've lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming,
all our stewardship began.

***GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)**

There is a richness here—a richness that greets and grows and holds and challenges and keeps. There is a richness here—a richness that surrounds and brings and delivers and gives. The richness holds us in our weakness, fills us in our hunger, finds us when we are lost. So here, richly blessed, we have come, and we have been found. Let this time together inspire us in richness and grace.

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 | NSRV MARK 12: 38-44

Jesus Denounces the Scribes

As he taught, he said, ‘Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.’

The Widow’s Offering

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.’

SPECIAL MUSIC “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” J.S. Bach

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Responsive)*

One: There is a richness here—a gorgeous, flowing richness of unending abundance. But that doesn’t mean that it guides us. Our ways—within and beyond our control—speak of something different: of lack, of fear, of something other than an acknowledgement of God’s endless and beautiful river of grace.

All: But how do we step into that river? Do we step into it with trust? Do we trust the current of God’s generous gifts? Or do we run from the river? For when we run, when we turn away from God’s gifts to distrust, we lose the refreshment and joy of that richness. And something else reigns.

One: Then what is left?

All: Now is the time — now is the time to consider just how we distrust God’s abundance. Now is the time—now is the time to begin something new. Now is the time—now is the time to trust...differently.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Let us pray: We haven't always trusted, God, but now we do.

Many: We acknowledge the richness of your blessings, God. We see your flowing river of love and we wade into your grace.

One: There is a richness—a richness that says “yes”—eternally – even in the face of our behavioral “no’s”. There is a richness that penetrates distrust and offers so much more. This richness forgives and gives even more.

All: We know this forgiveness, and we thank you, God.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG “Sweet Hour of Prayer” verse 1 |NCH No. 505

**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.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY — Pastor Candy

Children of the light—richness and blessings are ours. Now, the time is ours—isn't that exciting? Met by God in the holiness of this space, inspired by God's word, God's gifts, God's love. Encouraged by the presence and commitment of everyone else around us—Let's do something! Let's try something new! We've given before, we've given to the church. Let's keep giving. But let's give something new.

Maybe it means that we add a few dollars to our usual pledge. Maybe it means that we add a pledge of time that we haven't included before. Maybe it means that we make a commitment of giving for the first time ever. Now is the time to do something new about God's abundant gifts to us. Let us give joyfully. Let us be so joyful that we even come forward to make our gifts, right here at the altar, right near the table of ultimate giving. Let us come.

(You are invited to bring your pledge card forward and receive a blessing.)

MUSICAL OFFERING “Take My Life and let it Be Consecrated Unto Thee”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING (*Unison*)

O God, we have come, and what a delight it has been! We have come before your table with gifts—gifts of ourselves, gifts of risk, gift of trust. We thank you for the chance to give, and pray that we and all whom our gifts bless will never be the same. Through our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SERMON: “The Widow’s Might”

***GOING FORTH SONG** “Take My Gifts” | NCH 562

1/ Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

2/ Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter -
flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

3/ Take whatever I can offer -
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

WORDS OF GRACE — Pastor Candy

Go now as children of the light: Ready to serve, eager to give, delighted to love. And may God’s blessing: Source, Word, and Spirit—One, keep, lead and mold you, now and forever. 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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS Please let Pastor Candy know of any joys or concerns you would like lifted up in worship before Sunday at 10 a.m.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED IN ANY WAY TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR CHILI/BINGO FUNDRAISER! Profit was \$551 which will be used toward power washing the Garden Chapel.

THANKS TO THE CONGREGATION FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING. DONATIONS WERE \$380.

FOR PASTORAL CARE Please Call or text Pastor Candy at 925-640-9289; or send an email to cccpastor@att.net

PRAYER REQUESTS

***Sharon Smith, Jay Harragin, Joan Hansen, Maggie McDowell, Daniel Best,
Jim and Cindy Ketzle, Don and Peggy Olson, Carol McCreary,
Mary Ellen Praether, Bradley Everhardt, Stone Coram, Judy Shuflitowski, Stephanie
Guide, Paul Escoffery, Charles Wanner, Kevin Zhang,
Carl Brooks, Maria Marcial, Rene Brodsky,
The Rev. David and Carol Christensen,
and the friends and family of Larry Nipper***

COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIONS

1. Guardian ad Litem family Thanksgiving collection for donation of Aldi gift cards. Nov 5-20th.
2. Guardian ad Litem Youth Christmas collection for donation of \$25 gift cards starts in Dec.
3. Mark Krumich food pantry collection is ongoing. Thank you for the wonderful recent donations. We will make a delivery in November prior to Thanksgiving. SSoM students have elected to participate alongside CCC in the Food Drive as part of their Altruism program!

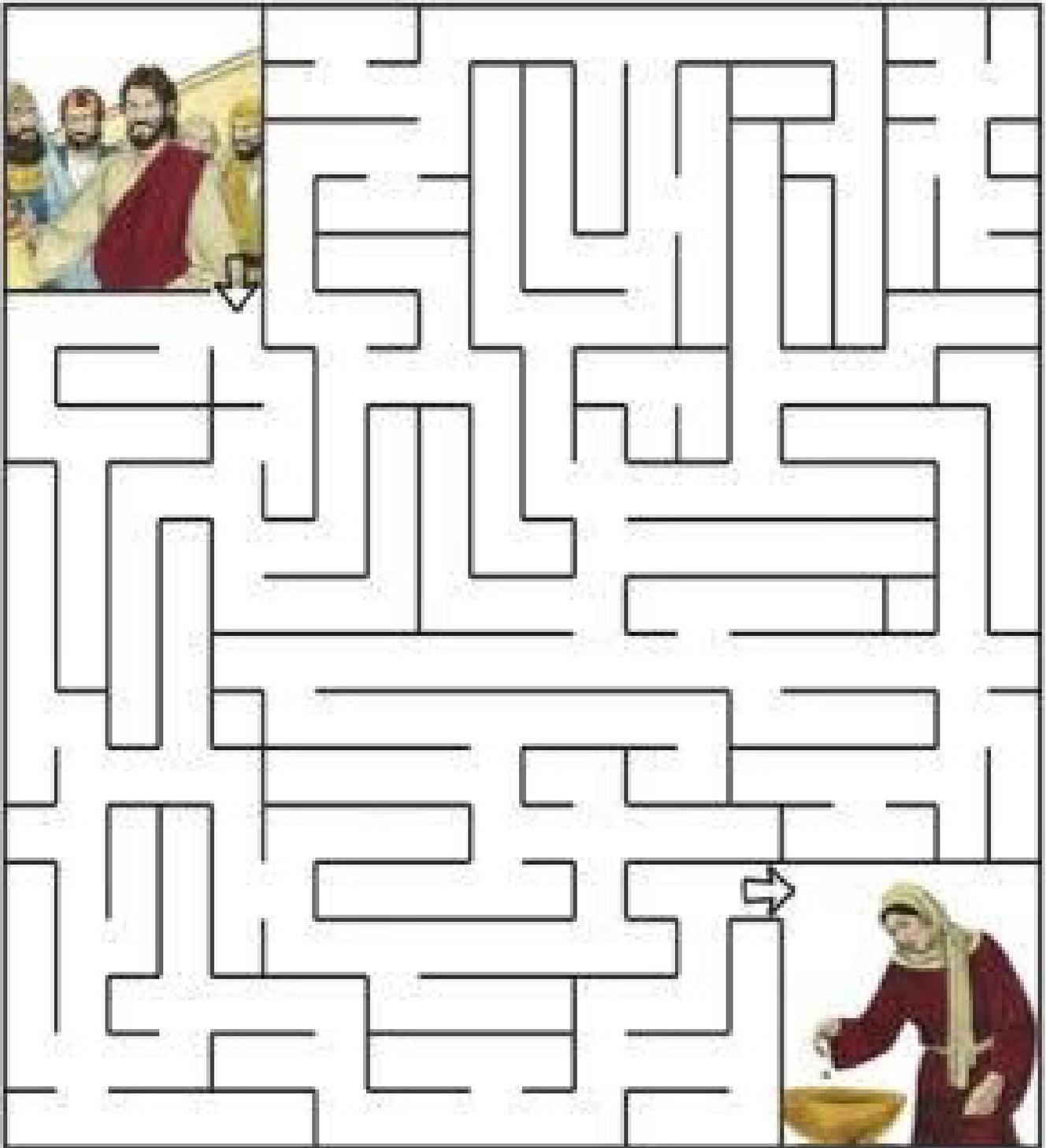
~Thank you for your continued generosity.~

ONLINE GIVING You may click on the “GIFT” button at the bottom of the e-newsletter; or visit CCC at christcongregationalucc.org and click “ONLINE GIVING” to reach “Moon Clerk” where your credit card information will be securely processed.

COMING UP ON OUR CALENDAR

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| SUN | NOV 13 | 10:30 AM | WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY & FB
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY INGATHERING OF PLEDGES
MINISTRY OF MISSIONS & OUTREACH MEETS AFTER WORSHIP IN KELSEY LIBRARY |
| THURS | NOV 17 | 7 PM | CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING ON ZOOM
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/6917354836 |
| SAT | NOV 19 | 7 PM | “An Evening with Nadia Bolz-Weber” at CGC/UCC |
| SUN | NOV 20 | 10:30 AM | WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY & FB
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
Following worship we’ll enjoy a potluck picnic inside Kelsey Hall as well as outdoors in the Garden Chapel. |
| THURS-FRI | NOV 24-25 | | Church office will be closed for the holiday |

The Widow's Two Mites





She put in everything;
all that she had
to live on

Mark 12:44

