

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

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 | 10:30 AM
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS ANNIVERSARY

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Hoping for the best, prepared for the worst, and unsurprised by anything in between.” Maya Angelou

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor
Jay Harragin, Director of Music
Graham Bryan, Musician
Isabella LeGrand, Liturgist
Hermes Morell, Usher

*Our altar bouquet is given by Cindy and Jim Ketzle
in celebration of their wedding anniversary.*

14920 Southwest 67th Avenue, Palmetto Bay, Florida 33158 | 305.235.9381
www.christcongregationalucc.org office@christcongregationalucc.org



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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

****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: In Advent we watch and wait, and prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

Many: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

One. In Advent we prepare for a life of discipleship and watch faithfully for signs of God's light breaking into the world.

Many: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

One: As we wait, dear One, we watch for signs of your action in the world, actions of compassion and grace breaking in.

Many: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

One: Holy God, we recognize that we do not know the day or the hour, but we know that the day is near.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come! Be born anew in our world and in our lives. Amen.

***HYMN "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" | NCH No. 122**

**1/ Come, O long expected Jesus,
Born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Grant us your true liberty.**

**2/ Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation,
Enter every longing heart.**

**3/ Born all people to deliver,
born a child, you came to reign
Born to rule on earth forever,
come, be known to us again.**

**4/ By your own eternal Spirit,
Come to claim us as your own;
By your all-sufficient merit,
Let us share your cross and crown.**

***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.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

LIGHTING THE "HOPE" ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Lorrie LeGrand, Jose Otalora, Isabella LeGrand, and Herminia Linares

(A purple candle is lit.)

ALL: O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds so that we may be a people of hope in our world. Amen.

Congregational Response] Tune: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021

**Candles glowing, promise showing the great HOPE that calms our fear.
Darkness scatters, worry shatters, Christ will always draw us near.
Calms our sighing, hears our crying, helps our trying, love undying –
Christ will always draw us near! Christ will always draw us near!**

BRINGING IN THE EVERGREENS AND WREATHS

CAROL: "Deck the Halls"

**Deck the Halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la la la la la
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Don we now our gay apparel,
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol.**

BRINGING IN THE HOLLY

CAROL: "The Holly and the Ivy"

**The Holly and the Ivy,
Now both are full well grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The Holly wears the crown.**

HANGING THE MISTLETOE

CAROL: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 7)

**O Come Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice? Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

DECORATING THE TREE WITH CRISMONS AND A STAR

CAROL: "The First Noel: (verse 2)

*They look-ed up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, noel, noel, noel, born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

BRINGING IN THE MANGER

CAROL: "Away in a Manger" (verse 1)

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay.
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

BRINGING IN THE POINSETTIAS

CAROL: "Little Drummer Boy" (verse 1)

*Come they told me, Pa-rum Pum Pum Pum
A newborn King to see, Pa-rum, Pum Pum Pum.
Our finest gifts we bring, Pa-rum Pum Pum Pum
To lay before the King, Pa-rum Pum Pum Pum
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum,
So to honor him Pa-rum Pum Pum Pum, When we come.*

BRINGING IN THE BELLS

CAROL: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play;
In music sweet the tones repeat,
"There's peace on earth, good will to all."*

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

SPECIAL MUSIC *“In The Bleak Midwinter”*

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG **“O How Shall I Receive You?”**

**O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,
blessed hope of every people, my soul’s delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light.
To know what-e’er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.**

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

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

In response to the promise of God, let us give thanks through the presentation of our gifts and offerings.

MUSICAL OFFERING *“The Master Has Cometh”*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these offerings nurture all of the ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. May these gifts nurture your rule of peace. Amen.

ADVENT MEDITATION

***CLOSING HYMN: "O How Shall I Receive You?" | NCH, No. 102**

**1/ O how shall I receive you,
how meet you on your way,
blessed hope of every people,
my soul's delight and stay?**

**O Jesus, Jesus, give me now
by your own pure light,
to know whate'er is pleasing
and welcome in your sight.**

**2/ Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.**

**O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.**

**3/ You come, O Christ, with gladness,
in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness
and bid our fears be still.**

**In patient expectation
we live for that great day
when a renewed creation
your glory shall display.**

***COMMISSION – PASTOR**

Go into the world and keep awake! The time is drawing near when God's hope will be revealed. Go into the world and keep watch! The signs of God's light are breaking into the world. Go into the world and nurture hope for justice and peace this day and always.



***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.

TODAY IS the First Sunday of Advent! We will light the HOPE candle on the Advent Wreath and gather for the Hanging of the Greens. Please plan to stay and part in decorating the Sanctuary and Christmas tree after worship.

POINSETTIAS FOR REMEMBRANCE

A sign-up sheet is located at the entrance of the Sanctuary for those who wish to order poinsettias in honor of those whose memories bless and enrich us even now.

You may also call the office to place an order.

The Advent/Christmastide devotional, "What's Left of the Night" (by the "StillSpeaking Writers Group) is available for download now for \$3.00.

<https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/whats-left-of-the-night-2022-advent-christmastide-devotional?>

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLIGHT SERVICE WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 5 P.M.

**A CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE OF CAROLS AND READINGS
WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 11 A.M.**

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

WORLD AIDS DAY is Thursday, December 1st . Please remember in prayer all those who died, their loved ones, and the LGBTQ+ Community. Give thanks for those in the medical field whose discoveries led to this disease becoming chronic rather than fatal.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON DECEMBER 18th. Caring and providing for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years by providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Year-round giving through www.christmasfund.org. Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

***Jay Harragin, Joan Hansen, Maggie McDowell, Daniel Best,
J.J. Ketzle, Jim and Cindy Ketzle, Don and Peggy Olson,
Carol McCreary, Mary Ellen Praether, Stone Coram,
Judy Shufplitowski, 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***

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIONS

1. Guardian ad Litem Youth Christmas collection for donation of \$25 gift cards starts in December.
2. Mark Krumich food pantry collection is ongoing. Thank you for the wonderful recent donations. We needed two trips for this delivery with SSoM students contributing 250 cans of food as part of their Altruism program!

Thank you for your continued generosity!

ONLINE GIVING You may click on the “Give” 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURS-FRI NOV 24-25 CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

SUN NOV 27 10:30 AM WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY & FB

MON NOV 28 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

SUN DEC 4 10:30 AM WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY & FB

MON DEC 5 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM



MUSIC WORSHIP LOGO
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**CHOIR PRACTICE EVERY SUNDAY BEFORE WORSHIP
9:45 AM – 10:20 AM**

SAVE THE DATE

**PLEASE JOIN THE CCC WOMEN
on Saturday, December 10th
at Cauley Square's "The Tea Room" at 10:30 a.m. for the
Annual Christmas Luncheon**

***A Silly Santa gift exchange will be held. We are asking a \$5.00 limit
(either one gift from Five Below or 4 gifts from the dollar store).***

***Please feel free to bring a guest. RSVP to Joan Chandler by December 8th
at bingo123@bellsouth.net.***
