

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

NOVEMBER 6, 2022 | 10:30 AM
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“In his holy flirtation with the world, God occasionally drops a handkerchief. These handkerchiefs are called saints.”

— FREDERICK BUECHNER

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Designated-Term Pastor
Jay Harragin, Director of Music
Graham Bryan, Musician
Debbie Wanninkhof, Guest Violinist
John Deo, Liturgist
Judy & Wally Carlson, Ushers

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!

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT — Anita Smith

***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: Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

Many: May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.

One: May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

Many: In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered.

One: May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

ALL: And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.

***HYMN “For All the Saints” | NCH No. 299**

**1/ For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**2/ You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**3/ Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
live as the saints who nobly fought of old.
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**4/ Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**5/ And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (Unison)**

Loving God, Grant me grace to release everything too much or too little into your transforming fire of refinement. Sear in me the strength of your saints - generous and gentle, focused and fierce - just enough to answer every devilish temptation distracting or denying Your Holy hope for my re-formation. Yes, Love, form me anew from the inside out, centering others ahead of every selfishness that dares me to choose anything less than You. Release me from the burdens and brokenness of my own making, that I may be readied to meet You in every ordinary saint whose path crosses mine in the gift of this day. 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 LUKE 20:27-38

The Question about the Resurrection

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.' Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

SPECIAL MUSIC "Faith of our Fathers"

BLESSING OF THE COMFORT BOXES AND BLANKETS

RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE The Lighting of Memorial Candles

Leader: Almighty God, those who die in you now live with you in joy and blessedness. We thank you for the grace you gave your saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors.

(Continues)

People: We remember today the saints of the community of faith at Christ Congregational Church. We remember, as well, beloved family members and friends who have passed on before us, as well as the victims of war, crime, and terrorism. We know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

Leader: I light these candles in memory of those who have gone home to God in the recent past, and so proclaim Jesus' triumph over death.

PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS — Pastor Candy

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

Luke tells us that Jesus introduced a strange kind of arithmetic. He said, when you give things away, you actually have more. Maybe it's that we get more of what we really need - freedom from the stuff that so often can hold us hostage, keeping us from a life that is truly free. The saints of old seemed to know this. So, we are invited to give, not only because it helps others, but because by giving we are opened up to a fullness we could not otherwise have imagined. It is God's gift to us. May the joy of the saints be our joy today as we offer our gifts to God for the good of the world.

MUSICAL OFFERING "Shalom Chaverim"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING (*Unison*)

O Giver of Life, continue to form in us a transparent spirit that by our giving and our living others may discover You. Reshape our priorities and grant us a willing vision to see and respond to those hidden saints who reveal something of you in the least likely ways and in the most surprising places. Thank you for calling us into a life such as this and bless these gifts that they may bless others. Amen.

SERMON: "It's Not Like That!"

*HYMN "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" | NCH No. 295

**1/ I sing a song of the saints of God, faithful their whole lives through
who bravely labored, lived and died for the God they loved and knew
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.**

**2/They loved their God and they lived that love. It was loving that made them strong.
They did what was right, for Jesus' sake, lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest, and another was slain by a fierce wild beast;
there is no earthly reason, none in the least, why I shouldn't be one too.**

**3/They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousand still.
The world is filled with living saints who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at
tea:
for the saints are folk like you and me, and I mean to be one, too.**

SHARING THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S LOVE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE *(Responsive)*

One: God be with you

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(You are invited to come forward to the servers, take a piece of the bread and eat it, then take a cup of juice and drink it, then return to your seat. Please raise your hand if you'd like the communion elements brought to you.)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Unison)*

For the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of cup, we thank you, O God. For the community that you have restored in us through the sharing of life, we thank you. For the courage and strength that you have promised to us for living as your followers, we thank you God. Amen.

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

1/ O when the saints go marching in,
O when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the saints go marching in.

2/ O when the sun begins to shine,
O when the sun begins to shine,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the sun begins to shine.

3/ O when they crown him Lord of all,
O when they crown him Lord of all,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when they crown him Lord of all.

WORDS OF GRACE — Pastor Candy

Hear the good news! Jesus tells us that the Holy One is a God of grand reversals. Weeping turns to rejoicing, hunger is answered with fullness, honesty of heart is answered with grace upon grace. Every energy that diminishes is interrupted with a newness of life made possible by the One who is always searching us out with forgiving love. In Jesus, God revealed that grace and forgiveness has already arrived, and it includes you and me. It is the Good News! You can trust it with your life. The saints knew it and now you do, too. Thanks be to God! Amen and 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.

All Saints Day Service Prayers were written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.

THANKS TO CCC WOMEN AND ALL WHO MADE THE CHILI/BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR OUR CHURCH A SUCCESS!

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.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

***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. 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!
2. SOS and the Homestead police have requested our Child Comfort Boxes. They praise the impact of the comfort, diversion, hygiene and school/journaling components. Join us to assemble them on Oct 30 and Nov 5 in Kelsey. \$10 donation per box.
3. SOS has also requested blankets for the children waiting in the cold police station as well as for the swelling homeless population living in their cars as we go into winter. Collection will be through Nov 5th. Bring or choose one we have for a \$5-\$10 donation. (Oct 30-Nov 5)
4. Guardian ad Litem family Thanksgiving collection for donation of Aldi gift cards. Nov 5-20th.
5. Guardian ad Litem Youth Christmas collection for donation of \$25 gift cards starts in December.

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.



Jesus and the Sadducees

And they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. Luke 20:36 (NIV)

Based on Luke 20:27-38



M V E C K M P I W W A W V E J
O S E V E N E F S L O N D G V
S G W N L E G E R A T M N B F
E Y W I F N R I S E A H A K Q
S A U I D F E S B K A C G N N
J N W Z X O S J A C O B D I F
N H N C C W W L Q D L A R Y M
A I X W H M Y S C H E E R J X
B B V O I H P O P D H R P J G
R T Q G L A C D C T A Y T E I
A T C U D L P T O M X I H Y V
H K W A R I Q R E G B W Q R R
A M M I E V B K W A N G E L S
M B O B N E E M I U W C X B G
G O B W F V B J H Z O I M N B

MOSES
ISAAC
WIFE

ABRAHAM
JACOB
WOMAN

MARRY
RISE
DEAD

ALIVE
SEVEN
CHILDREN

BROTHER
ANGELS
WIDOW