

Church on the Hill

Congregational/United Church of Christ

251 SW Fourth Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33432



Sunday Worship Service

May 5, 2024 - Communion

In-Person & on Facebook

Pastor: Tom Lacey Cell: 561-306-5208 tomlaceypastor@gmail.com

Moderator: Sarah Hugus sarahhugus@outlook.com

Worship Begins!

Songs *Oh, Give Thanks Unto the Lord* A. Fruga
(W&R #40, vs. 1,2&3) *For the Beauty of the Earth* F. Pierpoint

Welcome

Song *Everything* L. Daigle

Call to Confession

The God to whom we make our confession is the God who loved us so much that God took on mortality, choosing to limit the divine so as to understand us and be with us. Trusting in that love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray together

O God, our God, for all our talk of love, how do we fail at it so often? For all our feelings of love, why do we refuse to live into them? For all our dreams of love, what makes us deny them the light of day? Too often words aren't planted in good soil, and so love blows away like seeds from a whitened dandelion. Our lives are rich with feelings, overwhelmed with sentiments, thoughts, moods. So, rarely do we hold tightly to thoughts of love, to the sensation of love, to the fabric of love—though it's the queen of our inner life, we play it like a pawn. Never is the hope for love's radiance to brighten our lives extinguished. An unquenchable flame, yet we place love under a basket, seeking fulfillment by other lesser lights.

O God of love and devotion, change our talk into actions, our feelings into directions, our dreams into realities. May we be the deep soil where love is found rooted and growing more and more. Let us be those who through your grace willingly pay love's cost, and purchase by it treasure on earth and in heaven. We pray this in unity with the Holy Spirit and in the name of Christ Jesus who taught his disciples and Church to pray when praying...

The Lord's Prayer

Spirit Song (WR #352)

**Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love;
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

Passing of the Peace-*tip your hat, give a wave, bump a fist, flash a smile*

Announcements

Scripture (NT pg 241) 1 John 4:16b-21

Hymn (WR #397) *The Gift of Love* H. Hopson

Message What is Love?

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Creator Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ God's only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Creator Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Greeting

“With what shall we come before the Holy One, and bow ourselves before God on high?

Shall we come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

God has showed you, O people, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you?

To do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.”

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Communion Prayers

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Great Thanksgiving Prayer

Sanctus (WR 136; v4)

Holy, Holy, Holy

R. Heber

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty;

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Proclamation

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Blessing

Let the people pray

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you, O God, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, are eternal in the heavens.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have
mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Call to Supper

Sharing the Elements

Grape juice is in purple cups; wine is in clear cups. Wine is in the chalice if you prefer to dip the wafer in the cup rather than take a cup.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks!

Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Solo

What the World Needs Now Is Love

H.David-B.Bacharach

T.J. Pursley

Benediction

May God's Holy Spirit lead you,

May God's strength protect you,

May God's peace be with you.

**We go in our faith in God, with Christ's grace, embracing
the life of the Holy Spirit in us.**

Amen

And amen!



Communion Offering Envelopes—What are they for?

Donations placed in Communion envelopes, typically the 1st Sunday of the month here at Church on the Hill, are tagged for the Deacon team. Any funds received in the Communion envelopes are used at the discretion of the Deacon team. These donations are NOT applied to the general fund for operating expenses. Examples of some items funded by these donations: altar and communion essentials, sanctuary beautification projects, altar cloth dry cleaning and outreach projects directed at welcoming fellow Christians into our Church on the Hill home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear God, please inspire us and let us honor you in our daily actions.
Lord Jesus, remind us to be helpful, patient, grateful, and kind.

We pray for All those affected by Covid. Those impacted by gun violence and the lawmakers to facilitate meaningful change that shows caring for all. For God's protection for the people of Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, western Africa, and to bring an end to those conflicts before any more loss of life or destruction. Also God's protection for Russians who speak out against their country's leader and his actions in Ukraine. Those suffering addiction. Truth and mercy to protect our LGBTQ children and families. Thanks, for all of God's blessings.

We continue to pray for all those facing tough economic situations. We pray for our leaders to have compassion and care for those who are struggling. We pray for understanding of climate change and for agreement on ways to address it.

We pray for our sponsored child: Bashar in Lebanon.

We pray for the family and friends of: Carl Wald; Joe Calareso; Jerri L.; Carol Lerebours; Dr. Harold Logan,; Sue Moser; Kiki Attonito; The Reverend John Shaw; John Bird; Leeann Fleischman Murdock; Richard Lund; Larry Williams; Dr. Clyde Baker; Rev. Patrick Rogers; Rev. Vardell Swett; Jeanette Stevens; Dottie Ward; Eleanor Magee; JoAnn Davis; Sue Laughlin; Bob Rodgers; Sharon Pruitt; Randall Grenadier; all those grieving loved ones.

We pray for those suffering health issues and in need of healing:

Jean; Jason; Grayce; Jason; Judy; Ron; John O; Carl J; Rosie; Karen; Lynn; Jill & Mary Jo; Marit; Leslie; Harry; Denise; Lily Hymans; Donna O'Connor; Eileen Maass, Dumitru, Jack S.

We pray for our students, friends and family who are traveling.

We offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving.

And we pray for our friends, families and neighbors, trusting that you

know their needs: Arlene, Lowell, David and Tom; Cindy; Daisy; Dave Clark; Patty; Oretha Holloway; Everena Tracey & Evelyn Torrey; Florence Gomes & Mala; Violet; Jaime.

We pray for our service men and women.

Prayer requests can be directed to the prayer request email:
cothprayers@gmail.com or to Pastor Tom directly:
tomlaceypastor@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Discussion Time Today

following worship 11:15 am

Join Pastor Tom after worship for an open discussion of today's sermon or other relevant topics of interest. All are welcome!

B.C.E.O.

Thur 5/9 at 5:30pm

EVERYONE is welcome to join Boca Christians Eating Out (B.C.E.O.) on Thursday evenings. This week we will meet at 5:30 at La Condesa Mexican Restaurant, 3320 Airport Road, Boca Raton 33431
Menu at: lacondesamexican.com Bon Appetit!

May 12 - Celebrate Graduates, Mothers and other youth PLUS Alex's Lemonade Stand to benefit childhood cancer research - next Sunday!

Brighten Someone's Day

If we can brighten the day of someone with a call, card or a visit, please let your Member Care team know. Contact Jeannie Clinton at 561-901-5935

Sound Amplification Devices Available during service

COTH has various devices to help amplify the sound during service. We want to do what we can to be sure you are hearing all parts of the service as clearly as possible so you get the most out of your time here on Sunday mornings. Speak to a Deacon for assistance!

The Upper Room Daily Devotional

The May/June 2024 Upper Room, a daily devotional magazine published in 33 languages and 100 countries around the world, is available in the Rosser Room. Meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others interested in sharing their faith experiences through writing. Stay connected through the week. We are mailing fewer of these, so pick a copy up today while you are at church!

Celebrate Florida

Celebrate Florida is the Florida Conference UCC's bimonthly newsletter. It includes news, important information, and interesting tidbits from the Florida Conference. uccfla.org/celebrateflorida.

Just a Dollar

You may fold a bill lengthwise and drop it in the plate along with your regular offering. These dollars are designated to help those in need.



Church on the Hill

AV Tech: Marit Lacey

Accompanist: Georgene Barger

Soloist and Song Leader: T.J. Pursley

Sexton: Sulay Vélez (Jan-Pro)

Stay in touch for the latest news, videos and photos!

Facebook: at www.facebook.com/bocaucc/

Twitter: @UCCchurchboca **Instagram:** @ChurchontheHill_

Website: www.churchofboca.org **E-mail:** office@churchofboca.org

Offering / Donation / Pledge Options

Cash/Check: offering plate on Sundays or by mail

Credit/Debit Card/ACH: Simply use the **QR** code to donate. You can also access this option using the **DONATE** tab on our website: www.churchofboca.org



Questions? Just ask at the office for help!

ONA Covenant

At Church on the Hill, we affirm that every person has worth as a unique creation made in the image of God. We recognize, value and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us. We believe that through diversity, all can worship together and grow in a faith that transcends our differences.

Accordingly, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, inviting and welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons into the full life and ministry of Church on the Hill, as well as persons of every race, culture, age, ability, gender, and economic status.