





# CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, JUST PEACE, W.I.S.E. & SANCTUARY CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here*

## WELCOME

Know that in this space you are welcome as you are, for who you are.  
Together we celebrate all of God's children – young, old and in-between;  
male, female and in-between; gay, lesbian, straight and in-between;  
the assured, the doubting, and the in-between;  
the optimistic, the cynics, and the in-between;  
the foolish, the wise, and the in-between.



Coral Gables Congregational UCC acknowledges the ancestral and traditional territories of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida who are the original owners and custodians of the land upon which we stand, worship, and serve.

We respect the rich history and ongoing relationship Natives peoples have with this land and the many contributions of Indigenous people to this place. We honor their distinctive cultural heritage by working to fulfill our commitment to justice, recognizing that they lived here and cared for this land over countless generations.

We also know words without action are vain so in this 100th year of our existence, we will work to responsibly advocate for treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and movements to return land back into Indigenous hands. The significance of this sacred ground – as well as its painful history – compels us as a congregation to engage in reparative justice. We seek to do so.

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ  
3010 De Soto Boulevard, Coral Gables, Florida 33134-6317  
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**WE BELIEVE GOD CAN BLOW THE LID OFF ANY BOX AND TURN IT INTO A DANCE FLOOR. WE ARE OUT OF THE BOX PEOPLE.**

February 14, 2024

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Our faith is over 2000 years old  
Our thinking is not.*

7:00 p.m.



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Come, come, whoever you are,  
Wonderer, worshipper, lover of leaving.  
It doesn't matter.*

*Ours is not a caravan of despair.  
Come, even if you have broken your vow a thousand times.  
Come, yet again, come, come. ~ Rumi*

*English translation is in parenthesis and italicized*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

*Please check in on Facebook and let your family and friends know that you are joining us at Coral Gables Congregational UCC.*

*Invite your family and friends around the world to worship with us online each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at [gablesucc.org/live](https://gablesucc.org/live).*

*Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.*

*Please know that your financial support of the church does great things not only within these walls but far beyond. If you wish to give on your mobile device today, please text "GABLESUCC" to 833.245.6434 or go to our church app.*

*You can also give at [gablesucc.org/give](https://gablesucc.org/give).*

***Thank you for your gifts and generosity.***

**\*AN INVITATION TO GATHER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

One: God's people have been called to gather.  
From new-born infants to aged grandparents,  
all are welcome.

One: Gottes Volk wurde zur Beichte gerufen  
Von Denjenigen mit fehlerhaften Huellen  
Zu denen mit gebrochenem Herzen,  
Alle sind Willkommen!

*(God's people have been called to repent.  
From those who wear their faults on their sleeves,  
to those whose secret hearts are broken,  
all are welcome.)*

*Continued...*

One: Todos nosotros estamos llamados a ser reconciliados con Dios.  
 Desde aquellas personas que se han alejado  
 hasta aquellos cuyo dolor murmura en la noche,  
 todos son bienvenidos.

*(God's people have been called to be reconciled to our God.  
 From those who have turned away,  
 to those whose pain whispers in the night,  
 all are welcome.)*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*O God, How We Have Wandered*

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.  
 Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.  
 In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

## LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: O God of life,  
we confess the ways we turn away  
from the fullness of life that you offer.

*Quiet Prayer*

One: God of love,  
we confess the hatred we hold in our hearts.

*Quiet Prayer*

One: God of compassion,  
we confess our indifference.

*Quiet Prayer*

One: God of justice,  
we confess that our lives are linked to oppressive systems.

*Quiet Prayer*

One: God of peace,  
we confess the violent movements of our hearts,  
the violent realities of our world.

*Quiet Prayer*

One: Holy God, we confess the things we have left undone which we ought to have  
done; And those things which we ought not to have done to you and to others.

*Quiet Prayer*

## HYMN OF CONFESSION

Sung in English and Spanish

*Si Fui Motivo de Dolor, Oh Dios (If I have Been the Source of Pain, O God)*

1.If I have been the source of pain, O God;  
if to the weak I have refused my strength;  
if, in rebellion, I have strayed away.  
Forgive me, God.

2. Si vana y fútil mi palabra fue;  
si al que sufría en su dolor dejé;  
no me condenes, tú, por mi maldad  
¡perdón, oh Dios!

*(If I have spoken words of cruelty,  
if I have left some suffering unrelieved,  
condemn not my insensitivity,  
forgive me, God.)*

3. If I've insisted on a peaceful life,  
far from the struggles that the gospel brings,  
when you prefer to guide me to the strife,  
forgive me, God.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: By love we are liberated from the pain of our pasts.  
Freed to live into the fullness of our humanity.  
Remember that the power to forgive is yours.

One: O God erschaffe uns mit reinem Herzen und mache unseren Geist rein.  
Heile uns, denn wir tragen Deine Hoffnung.  
*(Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right and wholesome spirits within us. Restore us to the joy of your salvation, for it is in you that we place our hope.)*

One: He venido para que tengas vida y con abundancia. Te doy tesoros, los cuales no son para que los guardes y proteges, sino para que los utilices por el bien, la esperanza, sanidad y restauración del prójimo.  
*(I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. I have given to you treasures, which are not to be collected, stored, and locked up - they are gifts to be used for others, for hope, healing, restoration.)*

One: In the name of God our Creator, Christ our Liberator, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter: know that you are forgiven and are set free to be all that you were created to be!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## SUNG RESPONSE

*Si Fui Motivo de Dolor, Oh Dios (If I have Been the Source of Pain, O God)*

Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer,  
and free me from temptation's subtle snare,  
with tender patience, lead me to your care. Amen. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

*I Corinthians 13*

Read in German

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast<sup>[a]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

**CHORAL RESPONSE***Das Glaube Ich (This I Believe)*

Hillsong

Greg Jackson, vocalist

Our Father everlasting, the all creating One  
 God Almighty through Your Holy Spirit  
 Conceiving Christ the Son, Jesus our Savior

Chorus:

I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, our God is three in one  
 I believe in the resurrection that we will rise again  
 For I believe in the Name of Jesus

Our Judge and our Defender, suffered and crucified  
 Forgiveness is in You  
 Descended into darkness, You rose in glorious life  
 Forever seated high (Chorus)

I believe in You, I believe You rose again  
 I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord (Chorus)

I believe in life eternal, I believe in the virgin birth  
 I believe in the saints' communion, and in Your holy Church  
 I believe in the resurrection, when Jesus comes again  
 For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

**ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION**

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

**ANTHEM**

*Touch Me with Ashes*  
 The Chancel Choir

Nordmeyer

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES****INVITATION****RECEIVING OF THE ASHES***From dust to dust...**Von staub zu staub...**Del polvo al polvo...*

Online: *You are invited to place on your forehead or hand a symbol of the cross*

In-person: *At this time ashes will be given for those who wish to receive them.*

*As you are excused from your pew, please come down the center aisle.*

*If you wish to receive ashes in German, please go to Pastor Laurie.*

*For Spanish, please go to Pastor Mairolet.*

*In English, please go to Pastor Megan.*

***Please return to your pew by the side aisle.***

## THE EVENING PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER - PADRE NUESTRO – VATER UNSER

*You are invited to pray together in the language or tradition of your choice*

#### SUNG RESPONSE

*Nada te Turbe*

Sung in Spanish and English

Nada te turbe, nada te espante. Quiena Dios tiene nada le falta.

Nada te turbe, nada te espante. Sólo Dios basta

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten, those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten, God alone fills us.

#### \*THE SENDING FORTH

One: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.  
Let the memory of your incomplete humanity,  
awaken you to the wonders, joys, sorrows, and pain of life.

Many: **May the ashes we wear be the ashes of transformation;  
awakening us to the beauty and love of seizing the moment  
and living it to the fullest.**

One: Let it be said of you that here in this little part of eternity  
that you lived fully, loved extravagantly, and helped humanity evolve  
into all that God dreamed we would be!

Many: **We are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of the One who  
is was and ever more shall be Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.**

#### \*POSTLUDE

#### THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US THIS EVENING...

*If you are visiting with us for the first time, we welcome you. We are grateful we have found each other. If somehow, there is something in you, some still small voice seeking a place to live out your faith, to ask important questions, and to serve beyond yourself, we warmly invite you into our community.*

#### THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Megan Smith, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Lisa LeSueur, Assistant Pastor

The Rev. Mairolet Vega, Pastor of the Spanish Language Church

Yvonne Visser-Guerro, Representative of the German Language Church

Dr. Charmyn Kirton, Music Ministry Coordinator

Dr. Gregory Taylor, Parish Musician

