

**Welcome!**

**We are so glad you are here.**

**December 17, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.**

**If there were no music, life would be a mistake.**

*Nietzsche*

**Music and rhythm find their way  
into the secret places of the soul.**

*Plato*

**A bird does not sing because he has an answer.**

**A bird sings because she has a song.**

*Joan Walsh Anglund*

**Music expresses that which cannot be put into words  
and cannot remain silent.**

*Victor Hugo, Novelist*

**To stop the flow of music would be like  
the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable.**

*Aaron Copland, Composer*

**First Presbyterian Church**

1530 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33020-5240

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Pastor: Rev. Kennedy M. McGowan

Director of Family Ministries: James M. Potts

December 17, 2017

Sanctuary - 10:00 A.M.

Director of Music: Dr. Robert Remek

Church Office: (954) 923-8209

Fax: (954) 923-8200

**\*Please stand if you are able.**

**CCLI #1836693; CRL034941; CVL503735603**

**WELCOME** — Please date, fill out, and pass the red Friendship Register to your neighbor.

**PRELUDE** – *Sussex Carol* . . . . . arr. Mark Hayes

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY**

**\*HYMN** – **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** . . . . . **# 28**

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS - (IN UNISON)** . . . Adapted from the Gelasian Sacramentary (c. 500)

**Stir up your power, Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us: through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

**A TIME OF SILENCE**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER (#577)**

**Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.  
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**SPECIAL MUSIC - *God With Us!*** . . . . . **Please see insert**

**NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face And the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of his glory and grace.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** - (Debtors version) (front of Hymnal, pg. 16)

**Response - Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me; Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.**

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

*(Visitors, in the pew rack you will find a Guest Information card.  
Please complete the card, then place it in the offering plate.)*

*The anthem is a prayer. Please, no applause.*

**Offertory Anthem - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear . . . . . arr. Albert D. Schmutz**

**\*THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE – DOXOLOGY (#593)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.  
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**\*OFFERING OF PRAYER (in unison) . . . . . Adapted from Frank Colquhoun, 1909-2011**

**Our heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find  
time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer; that we may reflect  
upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Savior's birth to  
penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more  
real, and our lives worthier of all that you have for us through the coming of  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In His name we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN – Angels We Have Heard on High . . . . . # 23**

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**Congregational Response:**

**God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a Shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.**

**\*POSTLUDE – Trumpet Tune and Toccata on "Angels We Have Heard on High" . . . . . Michael Helman**

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**Lay Reader – Joseph Moniz**

**The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Sally Southmayd in memory  
of loved ones and in honor of the Westminster Choir.**

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## WELCOME VISITORS!

**Visitors, following worship, please join us on the patio for juice and coffee. It is our hope that you will encounter God as you worship with us.** First Presbyterian Church is a family of faith committed to families, peacemaking, and mission. There are educational offerings for all ages, as well as fellowship groups for members and friends of the church. All are welcome. For information, visit us at our web site at: [fpcoh.org](http://fpcoh.org)

**CHILD CARE** for infants is provided in the nursery, located in the Narthex (Lobby) of the church. Children's worship kits are also available for younger children. Please ask an usher for assistance. Our children's Sunday school, Good News Kidz (GNK), gathers at 10am in the sanctuary (September through May). **FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**, in the narthex we have large print hymnals and a limited number of pew cushions available.

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## OPPORTUNITIES

The bulletin announcements serve as reminders of church activities.

Please check our website: [fpcoh.org](http://fpcoh.org)  
for the monthly newsletter and church calendar; and  
our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcoh/>  
Church office e-mail: [landerson@fpcoh.org](mailto:landerson@fpcoh.org)

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## CHILDREN AND YOUTH —

**Good News Kidz (GNK)** — (Sunday school for ages 4-10), 10:00 a.m., sanctuary  
**Boy Scout Troop 420, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Education Building  
**You are cordially invited to the Learning Centers' Christmas program, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., in the sanctuary.** Come out and hear the sweet voices of our smallest church family members.

## CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP —

**Breakfast and the Bible** — Sundays, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m., chapel – A study focusing on the scripture of the day.

**A Time of Prayer, in the chapel**

**Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>: 9:00 a.m. – Noon**

## MEETING —

**Session – December 18<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 p.m., chapel

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## LOOKING AHEAD.....

**Christmas Eve services, December 24th:**

**Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.**

**Candlelight Service, 5:30 p.m.**

**Child Care provided at both services.**

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## **DROP BY FOR COFFEE OR TEA WITH KENNEDY THIS WEEK**

Here are the unscheduled times this week where  
I am available for y'all to come by for a visit!

### **Sunday**

(worship, Bible study and newcomers' seminar take up the day.)

### **Monday - 10:30 to 11:30 and 2:00 to 6:00**

(Preparation for Session takes up the rest of the day)

### **Tuesday - 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:30 to 3 PM**

(Preschool walk-around, and Rotary take up the remaining time.)

### **Wednesday - 10:30 AM to 1 PM and 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM**

(lunch and mtg. w. James Potts take up the remaining time)

### **Friday - 10:30 to 11:30**

(sermon preparation and chapel take up the rest of the day)

Please try to call beforehand so I can put the kettle on, and to make sure that the schedule hasn't unexpectedly changed for a hospital visit or some other concern.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- Breakfast and the Bible – Chapel ..... 9:00 a.m.
- Worship – Cantata - Sanctuary ..... 10:00 a.m.
- Good News Kidz (GNK) - Sanctuary/ Education Building/Patio ..... 10:00 a.m.
- Newcomers Seminar Church Office ..... 11:30 a.m.
- Word of God Bible Church – Chapel ..... 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

### **Monday, December 18**

- A Time of Prayer – Chapel ..... 9:00 – Noon
- Session meeting – Chapel ..... 7:00 p.m.

### **Tuesday, December 19**

- Boy Scout Troop 420 - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Education Building ..... 7:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, December 20**

- Learning Centers' Christmas program - Sanctuary ..... 7:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, December 21**

- Westminster Choir ..... 5:15 p.m.
- Westminster Ringers Bell Choir ..... 6:30 p.m.
- Word of God Bible Church – Chapel ..... 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### **Friday, December 22**

- A Time of Prayer – Chapel ..... 9:00 a.m. – Noon

### **Saturday, December 23**

- Christ Jesus College and Seminary – Sanctuary & Chapel ..... 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- Our Lady of Hope Orthodox Catholic Church – Chapel ..... 5:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, December 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- Breakfast and the Bible – Chapel ..... 9:00 a.m.
- Worship – Bell concert - Sanctuary ..... 10:00 a.m.
- Good News Kidz (GNK) - Sanctuary/ Education Building/Patio ..... 10:00 a.m.
- Word of God Bible Church – Chapel ..... 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Candlelight Worship – Sanctuary ..... 5:30 p.m.

## **A WORD FROM KENNEDY**

### **BRINGING GOD'S TRANSFORMING LOVE TO HOLLYWOOD AND BEYOND**

Every year at Christmas, I am struck by how powerful a force simply presence can be. When I was going through a dark time in my life, over twenty years ago, I had a friend come and simply sit with me. I don't remember one word he said, but I will never forget that he came. And in that moment, he was Christ's presence to me. And this past Sunday, we as a church opened our doors to provide a space for those who grieved for Ollie, a dog brutally killed not far from our church doors. And our simple ministry of presence garnered tremendous gratitude from our community, and significant coverage in the media. Presence is powerful. Christmas reminds us of that. God does not live in some far-away place, but God, in the presence of Christ, came to be present with us and in us. And as Christ is present in us, so God calls us to be present with others.

And that presence can happen even when we are not physically present. For the many of you who supplied a gift or many gifts for children in need, please have no doubt that the presence of Christ will be felt in your gift. And when you give to our annual Christmas giving campaign, Jesus uses your gift to make his presence known not simply in our community but over a thousand miles away. Your gifts will provide much needed help to people and churches devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico, with a quarter of your gift going there. Your gifts will move forward desperately needed change on how seniors are cared for in our community, driving forward the movement for the development of a new model of assisted living in our county that treats seniors with the dignity and attention that they deserve and need, with a quarter going to our partnership with Bold Justice as we work with our sister churches in seeing that happen. And finally, and most crucially, half your gift will go to help ensure that this church community continues to be a faithful and sustaining presence of God's love in this city. Just this past week, I got a reminder that such a presence is not guaranteed. A church was closing its doors in Hallandale, and a realtor called to ask if we were interested in purchasing it. Over the years, I have been here, I have seen that happen all too often. By God's grace, exhibited through the generosity of faithful followers in this place, God continues to make provision for this church.

But please know that this church needs the presence of your gifts so that it can continue to be Christ's presence in this city. That is why a First Church member has issued a challenge match of \$5000.00 to help motivate your giving this year. So please give generously to our Christmas giving campaign. (\$1,000.00 has already been received toward the \$5,000.00 goal!) Let us do all that we can to keep strong the presence of this community of faith in Hollywood and beyond.

## **A MAJOR REPAIRS OPPORTUNITY**

You might have noticed a new look to the parking area on the south side of our sanctuary. This parking area had grown quite rough with four potholes, including one that was particularly large. And as we evaluated what to do about those problems, God connected us to a contractor who could not only repair the potholes, but would reseal and restripe the parking area as well for \$900.00, a remarkably good price. And we were able to take advantage of this offer, only because folks have given to a special fund that provides for such needs: Major Repairs. This year we have had to tap this fund a lot for everything from roofs to AC systems to a repair to a stove vent damaged by Irma. So if God has blessed you in a particularly generous way this year, consider a special gift to the Major Repairs fund. Your gift will make a huge difference in a vital fund in our church's life.



**The Westminster Choir presents the cantata *God With Us!***, a compilation of anthems by six arrangers including Pepper Choplin, Mary McDonald, Victor Johnson, Jay Rouse, Lloyd Larson, and Mark Hayes. The cantata delivers the Advent and Christmas message with fresh and highly inventive arrangements.

**We hope you enjoy this special event.**

## ***God With Us!***

Scripture narration by Zak Myers

1. *Come, Emmanuel* . . . . . Pepper Choplin
2. *O Come to Set Us Free* . . . . . Mary McDonald
3. *This Child* . . . . . Mary McDonald
4. *We Wait for Thee* . . . . . Victor C. Johnson
5. *Joy to the World!* . . . . . Pepper Choplin
6. *What Child Is This?* . . . . . Jay Rouse
7. *Gloria! To God Sing Gloria!* . . . . . Lloyd Larson
8. *Silent Night, Holy Night* . . . . . Mark Hayes

Mary Jo Remek, digital accordion

Mary Silvestro, flute