

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here.

December 24, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

**The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom,
power without conscience.**

Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.

Omar Bradley (Nov. 10, 1948), Five star General

The Child that was ere worlds begun

(...We need but walk a little way,

We need but see a latch undone...)

The Child that played with moon and sun

Is playing with a little hay.

G.K. Chesterton, The Wise Men

**Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love,
every time we give, it's Christmas.**

Dale Evans Rogers

**The Gifts of Christmas
The Gift of Love**

Matthew 2:1-8

First Presbyterian Church

1530 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33020-5240

4th Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Kennedy M. McGowan

Director of Family Ministries: James M. Potts

December 24, 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 – *Pastorale* Kenneth Benoit
The Westminster Ringers Handbell Choir Mary Silvestro, flute

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

***HYMN** – **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** **# 31**

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS - (IN UNISON) Adapted from E.B. Pusey, 1800-1882

Good Jesus, born as at this time, a little child for love of us, may you be born in us, that we may be a little child in love of you, and hang on your love as on our mother's bosom, trustfully, lovingly, peacefully; hushing all our cares in love of you. Forgive us for those many moments that we fail to live in such trust, love and peace....Give us a deep love for you that nothing may be too hard for us to bear for love of you. In the name of the One, who bore everything for us, in Jesus' name 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. Amen.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC – *A Collection of Christmas Handbell Choir Selections* **Please see insert**

NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS – Matthew 2:1-8 (New Testament, Page 2 in pew Bible)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD Rev. Kennedy M. McGowan

**The Gifts of Christmas
The Gift of Love**

THIS WE BELIEVE (in unison) Luke 2:10-11

**Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for
all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who
is the Messiah, the Lord.**

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT – As with Gladness Men of Old** #63

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 - Carol of the Winter Wind arr. Joseph Martin

***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 David Adam

**Come, Lord Jesus. Come as King.
Rule in our hearts. Come as love.
Rule in our minds. Come as peace.
Rule in our actions. Come as power.
Rule in our days. Come as joy.
Rule in our darkness. Come as light.
Rule in our bodies. Come as health.
Rule in our labors. Come as hope.
Your kingdom come among us.
In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus we pray. Amen.**

***HYMN – Joy to the World!** **# 40**

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 – Improvisation on “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”** Myron Roberts

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Lay Reader – James Potts

**The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Leslie & John Young
in honor of our family, and in memory of our loved ones.**

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: fpcch.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
for the monthly newsletter and church calendar; and
our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcoh/>
Church office e-mail: landerson@fpcoh.org

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 5:30 p.m.

Child Care is provided.

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Our love, thoughts, and prayers are with Lindsey and Firouza Harris
following the passing on December 10th of Lindsey's 92-year-old father.

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The church and Learning Center offices will be closed

Monday, December 25th for Christmas;

AND

Monday, January 1, 2018, for New Year's Day.

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH —

Good News Kidz (GNK) — (Sunday school for ages 4-10), 10:00 a.m., sanctuary

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP —

Breakfast and the Bible — Sundays, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m., chapel – A study
focusing on the scripture of the day. **The group will not meet on December 31st.**

A Time of Prayer, in the chapel

Friday, December 29th: 9:00 a.m. – Noon

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LOOKING AHEAD.....

January 7th, following worship - Decorations removed from sanctuary,
followed by a Pot-luck lunch on the patio.

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24 – 4th 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.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship – Sanctuary 5:30 p.m.
- Our Lady of Hope Orthodox Catholic Church – Chapel 11:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Church and Learning Centers’ offices closed

Thursday, December 28

- Word of God Bible Church – Chapel 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, December 29

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

Saturday, December 30

- 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 31

- Worship – Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.
- Word of God Bible Church – Chapel 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SPECIAL MUSIC – A Collection of Christmas Handbell Choir Selections

The Westminster Ringers Handbell Choir

- In Dulci Jubilo arr. Derek Hakes
- On Christmas Night arr. Derek Hakes
- Berceuse arr. Derek Hakes
- O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Michael Ryan
- The First Noel arr. Kevin McChesney
- The Christmas Angels arr. Michael Helman

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A WORD FROM KENNEDY

WE'VE ALREADY REACHED ALMOST \$2,000 DOLLARS!

Every year at Christmas, we join in a special giving campaign to address needs both in Hollywood and beyond. And this year, the campaign has an extra boost with the offer of a \$5,000.00 match, one that has already raised \$2,000 dollars toward that dollar-for-dollar match! Help us complete that match with your gift to the Christmas offering!

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 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 has made and continues to make provision for this church. But please know that this church needs your gifts so that it can continue to be Christ's presence in

this city. So please give generously to our Christmas giving campaign, and help us meet the match! Let us do all that we can to keep strong the presence of this community of faith in Hollywood and beyond.

ANOTHER GIVING OPPORTUNITY

The parking area on the south side of our sanctuary had grown quite rough with four potholes, including one that was particularly large. Providentially, God connected us to a contractor who could not only repair the potholes, but would reseal and restripe the parking area for \$900.00, a remarkably good price. Only because folks have given to a special fund that provides for such needs, Major Repairs, we were able to take up that offer. This year this fund has been especially depleted 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, please 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.

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KENNEDY IS AWAY THIS COMING WEEK, RETURNING TO THE OFFICE JANUARY 2ND.
NEXT SUNDAY, OUR DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES, JAMES POTTS, WILL FILL THE PULPIT.

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Merry Christmas

Please join us in worship Sunday, December 31st

at 10:00 a.m.