

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here.

December 24, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

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

Dale Evans Rogers

**This Christmas night bestowed peace on the whole world;
So let no one threaten**

**This is the night of the Most Gentle One – let no one be cruel;
This is the night of the Most Humble One – let no one be proud**

St. Issac of Syria, Christmas Sermon

**An ordinary night with ordinary sheep and ordinary shepherds.
And were it not for a God who loves to hook an “extra” on the
Front of the ordinary, the night would have gone unnoticed....
But God dances amidst the common. And that night he did a waltz.**

Max Lucado

The Christmas Story

Luke 2

First Presbyterian Church

1530 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33020-5240

Christmas Eve

Pastor: Rev. Kennedy M. McGowan

Director of Family Ministries: James M. Potts

December 24, 2017

Sanctuary – 5:30 p.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 – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Mona Williams Coalter
James Potts and Robert Remek, piano

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

***HYMN** – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* **# 41**

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS - (IN UNISON) Adapted from Bernard of Clairvaux

Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us, that we, made in your image, conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate your majesty, power and wonder; nor is it fitting for us to try. But your mercy reaches from the heavens, through the clouds, to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries. In the name of the One who is with us always, in Jesus' name we pray. Let it be. 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.

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 - Let Christmas Begin arr. Joseph Martin
Kay Hall, soprano

***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 Karl Barth, 1886-1968

O Lord, our King and our Savior!... We ask you to accept us and uplift us as we are. And we pray that, in your strength, we shall be willing to be counted amongst the poor and the humble, as you counted yourself. We remember before you all our brothers and sisters who are troubled and confused, who are sick in body or in mind, who lack the material means of survival. And we trust that in you the gospel of freedom may be proclaimed more cheerfully and joyfully by all your Church, that we may become the salt for which the world longs. And may we have a good Christmas. Let us look forward beyond the bright lights of our Christmas decorations towards the dawning of your eternal light. In the name of Jesus who is Light of the world we pray. Amen.

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY
FROM LUKE 2**

Journey to Bethlehem

***HYMN – O Little Town of Bethlehem** #44

Jesus' Birth

***HYMN – Away in a Manger** # 25

Announcement to the Shepherds

***HYMN – While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks** #59

The Light of the World

***SONG - This Little Light of Mine**

**This Little Light of Mine
Negro Spiritual**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Hide it under a bushel--No! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel--No! I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The light of the Christ Candle will be passed by candle bearers to the first person in each pew. Please pass the light to your neighbor.

REMEMBER, THE LIGHTED CANDLE SHOULD REMAIN UPRIGHT.

CAROL - "Silent Night" (REMAIN SEATED) #60

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

(PLEASE STAND AND RAISE CANDLES)

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

***WORD OF BLESSING AND RESPONSE**

Please EXTINGUISH YOUR CANDLE BEFORE EXITING THE CHURCH.

~ ~ ~

Merry Christmas

Please join us in worship Sunday, December 31st

at 10:00 a.m.

A WORD FROM KENNEDY

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING CAMPAIGN.

Each year, as a congregation, we launch a special giving campaign to address needs both locally and around the world. This year, 25% of your gift will first provide much needed help to people and churches devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as we work directly with church leaders on the ground there. The next portion of your gift will go to move forward desperately needed change on how seniors are cared for in our community. You likely remember the tragedy of the 13 seniors who died at Hollywood Hills Rehab after Hurricane Irma. Already, prior to that awful situation, our church was working with other congregations in Broward County through the organization Bold Justice to improve conditions in such homes, including spearheading 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. 25% of your gift will go to address that need.

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. From the Learning Center ministries to our scouting programs, from our children's ministries on Sunday morning to our local and international mission work, this church continued to give witness to God's love to Hollywood. This year, each dollar you give will be doubled, as a 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. Let us do all that we can to shine the light of Christ's love into Hollywood and beyond.