

**Welcome!**

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

**December 24, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.**

**We who must die demand a miracle.  
How could the Eternal do a temporal act,  
The Infinite become a finite fact?  
Nothing can save us that is possible;  
We who must die demand a miracle.**

*W.H. Auden, from For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*

**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

December 24, 2018

Sanctuary – 5:30 p.m.

Director of Music: Jerry W. Myers

Church Office: (954) 923-8209

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

**CCLI #1836693; CRL034941; CVL503735603**

**PRELUDE** – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ..... arr. Sandra Eithun

Handbell Choir

*Ukrainian Bell Carol* ..... arr. Dennis Robert

Handbell Choir

*The Holly and the Ivy* ..... arr. Chip Davis

Anthony Ciotti, pianist

### WELCOME AND CALL TO REFLECTION

*Angels We Have Heard on High* ..... arr. Jason Krug

Kenneth Vargas, violinist

### PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS - (IN UNISON)** .. Adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson, 1850-1894

**Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

### A TIME OF SILENCE

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**\*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (# 23, refrain only)**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**ANTHEM – *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*** . . . . . Craig Courtney  
Westminster Choir  
Kenneth Vargas, violinist, Anthony Ciotti, pianist

**NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**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.)*

Offertory Anthem - *Ten Thousand Joys* . . . . . Karen Dean  
Elena Galvan, soprano, Daniel Bates, tenor

**\*THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE – DOXOLOGY (#592)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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**

**The Light Comes in the Darkness (Luke 2:1-5)**

**\*HYMN – Angels, From the Realms of Glory** . . . . . #22

**The Birth of the Light (2:6-7)**

**\*HYMN – Away in a Manger** . . . . . # 25

**God Shares the Light (Luke 2:8-20)**

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

**The Light Keeps Shining**



**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.

**CAROL - "Joy to the World" ..... #40**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.

**\*WORD OF BLESSING AND RESPONSE**

**PLEASE EXTINGUISH YOUR CANDLE  
BEFORE EXITING THE CHURCH  
TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS CAROLING ON THE PATIO!**

~ ~ ~

**Merry Christmas !!!**

**Please join us in worship Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 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 support the disaster recovery work** in the Panhandle and California, as they recover from the devastation of Hurricane Michael, and the terrible wild fires. In both places, **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** has already begun their work of engaging in helping with the long-term recovery that the people in these areas will need. The next **25% of your gift will support the work of Bold Justice** to move our local and state leaders to provide protection and better care for vulnerable seniors and to address more effectively the challenges faced by the mentally ill. Every year, with our sister churches, we see things get done that otherwise wouldn't, like how we pushed the State Attorney's office to start spot inspections of nursing homes that were on the state watch list. Those homes are now getting the watchful eye they need to stop their bad acting and to show their patients the simple care and respect every human being should have.

And finally, **half of your gift will go to support and sustain our ministries right here**, including not only our children's ministries, but the music ministries that add so much to our worship each week. Thanks to a **\$5,000.00 challenge match**, every dollar you give will be doubled! \$25 becomes \$50! \$50 becomes \$100!! \$500 becomes a thousand!!! So please give generously, so that in this season of Advent and Christmas, God can shine the light of Jesus' love through us like never before!