

# **First Presbyterian Church**

1530 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33020-5240

## **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Pastor: Rev. Kennedy M. McGowan

Director of Music: Jerry W. Myers

Church Office: (954) 923-8209

web: [fpcOH.org](http://fpcOH.org)

Fax: (954) 923-8200

## **Welcome to our Worship Service!**

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

**March 22, 2020**

~ ~ ~

### **WELCOME & CALL TO REFLECTION**

**PRELUDE** – *My Jesus, I Love Thee* . . . . . arr. Myers

### **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

**\*HYMN** – *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (verse 1)

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS** . . . . . A Celtic Prayer, c. 450 – c. 700

**O Son of God, perform a miracle for us: change our hearts. You, whose crimson blood redeems humanity, whiten our hearts. It is you who makes the sun bright and the ice sparkle; you who makes the rivers flow and the salmon leap. Your skilled hand makes the nut tree blossom, and the corn turn golden; your spirit composes the songs of the birds and the buzz of the bees. Your creation is a million wondrous miracles, beautiful to behold. We ask of you just one more miracle: beautify our souls. In the name of the one who is all beauty and truth, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### **A TIME OF SILENCE**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*AMAZING GRACE (# 280, verse 1)**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

**THE NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 15:25-32 (New Testament)**

*“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’*

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD** ..... Kennedy M. McGowan

**Letting Go of Religion, Living into Grace**

*Living into Grace*

**THIS WE BELIEVE - (IN UNISON)** ..... Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER - Debtors version**

**OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN  
HALLOWED BE THY NAME,  
THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE  
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.  
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.  
FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,  
AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.  
LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.  
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.  
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,  
THE POWER AND THE GLORY. AMEN.**

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

**Donations in support of the ministries of First Presbyterian Church  
may be made on-line through our website: FPCOH  
You may also mail a check to  
*First Presbyterian Church, 1530 Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33020***

**\*OFFERING OF PRAYER (in unison) . . . . . Adapted from Henri Nouwen, 1932-96**

**Dear Lord, keep our eyes on you....You are beauty, goodness, gentleness, forgiveness, and mercy. In you all can be found. Outside of you nothing can be found....You are the light that shines in the darkness, the lamp on the lampstand, the house on the hilltop.... In and through you we can see and find our way to the Heavenly Father. O Holy One, Beautiful One, Glorious One, be our Lord, our Savior, our Redeemer, our Guide, our Consoler, our Comforter, our Hope, our Joy, and our Peace.... Let us be generous, not stingy or hesitant in these challenging days. Fill us with your love and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN – Take My Life (verse 1)**

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE – *Toccata Francais*** ..... Gordon Young

~ ~ ~

web site at: [fpcoh.org](http://fpcoh.org)    [facebook.com/fpcoh/](https://facebook.com/fpcoh/)  
Church office e-mail: [landerson@fpcoh.org](mailto:landerson@fpcoh.org)

~ ~ ~

**WELCOME VISITORS!**

It is our hope that you will feel invited, welcomed, and loved as you worship with us. First Presbyterian Church is a family of faith committed to families, peacemaking, and mission. All are welcome. For information, visit us at our **web site at: [fpcoh.org](http://fpcoh.org)**

~ ~ ~

**OPPORTUNITIES**

The bulletin announcements serve as reminders of  
Please check our website: [fpcoh.org](http://fpcoh.org)  
for the monthly newsletter and church calendar.  
Church office e-mail: [landerson@fpcoh.org](mailto:landerson@fpcoh.org)  
text waumba 555888

~ ~ ~

**Grace cannot prevail until our lifelong certainty that  
someone is keeping score has run out of steam and collapsed.**

*Robert Farrar Capon*

**Grace is a God who meets you where you are, not where you've left him.**

*Anne Lamott*

**Grace is something you can never get but only be given.**

*Frederick Buechner, Preacher and Writer*

**The winds of grace are blowing all the time.  
You have only to raise your sail.**

*Ramakrishna, Hindu mystic*

**What once was hurt; What once was friction  
What left a mark no longer stings  
Because grace makes beauty out of ugly things**

Bono, U2

~ ~ ~

Dear First Church Family,

As you might have already guessed, today we have moved our worship gathering on-line, and closing our school as of March 20th. As the Learning Center has already sent an email focused on more school-related matters, I will focus here on matters related to our Sunday morning ministries and how we will spiritually and emotionally support you and your families in these challenging days.

In regards to Sunday, we will have a streamlined version of our classic worship up on YouTube by Saturday morning, and likely earlier than that. We will also have a version of Waumba Worship along with a special video from Daniel, our director of family ministries, with the story along with activities families can do at home which will both go up on YouTube around the same time. (This will be our version of Waumba Chapel for our Learning Center families as well, in case the school needs to remain closed after Spring Break.) We will share the links on

our church's Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as my personal page, and you can also go into the search feature in YouTube and type in First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, and find our YouTube channel. Then you can subscribe and if you look for the bell symbol on the page also get notifications when a new video goes up. Also, to keep everyone safe, Jason and Aaron, two beloved members of our church family, have decided to limit their wedding this Friday to a small family affair. To give everyone else a chance to share in their joy, we will post their wedding service on our YouTube channel for all who wish to see it.

Also we are developing a number of other ways to stay in touch with you and support you and your family during these days of Covid-19. Here is a quick run-down of those ways:

1. If there are times, Lynn, our church's office manager, will not be able to be in the office, the office phone will be forwarded to her so if you have a need or concern you can reach someone. And, if for any reason, you need to contact me directly, my cell number is 954-257-6751. I can also be reached through Facebook messenger, WhatsApp and via my e-mail, [kennedym@fpcoh.org](mailto:kennedym@fpcoh.org).
2. I will also be making a practice of calling a certain number of folks each day just to check in and say hello. I hope that in that way, I can reach out to each family connected to the church or school around once a week.
3. In addition, we are developing a daily e-mail devotional that you can subscribe too via our website, and hope to have that up and running in the coming days.
4. I will also be working to introduce a daily video devotional on YouTube, and also working on doing a weekly Facebook Live.
5. And for Learning Center families, we are working on distance learning opportunities and other ways that your child can stay engaged with their class and their teacher if we may not be able to gather in person in the coming days.

These difficult days can be scary for us all, which reminds me of the most frequent command from God in the Bible, which is just that: do not fear. Of course that is a lot easier said than done when every day brings updates of more closings and new restrictions, but those still remain wise words. We need to be careful and safe, and diligently follow the guidelines of the public health officials who are working to stop this virus in its tracks. But we also need to remember: These difficult days will pass, and together with God's help, we will make it through these challenges. Please know that First Church and I are committed to be here for you and your family, to be a community in which you always feel invited, welcomed and loved, even if that inviting, welcoming and loving might be happening via the internet or over the phone lines for a little while!

And please remember, this is not the first time our nation or world has faced such challenges. In 1918, we faced a flu epidemic bigger than this one and one that occurred in the midst of a World War! And we not only survived those days but even rebounded into a decade of celebration and prosperity that came to be known as the “Roaring Twenties.” (After all that, people probably needed to let down their hair a bit!). And as they made it through those days, and came out on the other side, we will do so as well.

Please know that I am praying for you all, and do not hesitate to reach out to us for anything. And please remember that God loves each of you no matter what, including in these days of Covid-19!

Grace and peace always,

Kennedy McGowan  
Your Pastor and friend