

Welcome Home To Your . . .



Your Local & Global Queer Church Community for All

A Positive Worship Experience

Today's Theme

Season of Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19th 2021

Service of Gathering

Welcome

Rev Dr Durrell Watkins & Rev Dr Robert Griffin

Announcements

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

Please rise as you are able.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Introit

Hope is a Light

*Love is a light,
love is a light,
love is a light to show the way,
love is a light to show the way.
Light the candle of love,
light the candle of love.*

Sunshine Cathedral Affirmation

Sunshine Cathedral is a different kind of church where the past is past and the future has infinite possibilities.

The Call to Worship

This is the day our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Service of Praise

Processional Hymn *Mary, Woman of the Promise*

*Mary, woman of the promise; vessel of your people's dreams:
through your open, willing spirit waters of God's goodness streamed.*

*Mary, song of holy wisdom sung before the world began:
faithful to the Word within you, as you bore God's wondrous plan.*

*Mary, morning star of justice; mirror of the Radiant Light:
in the shadows of life's journey, be a beacon for our sight.*

*Mary, model of compassion; wounded by your offspring's pain:
when our hearts are torn by sorrow, teach us how to love again.*

*Mary, woman of the gospel; humble home for treasured seed:
help us to be true disciples, bearing fruit in word and deed.*

Opening Prayer

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

One: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy names.

Sung Response

Amen. Amen. Amen, Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen, Amen.

Please be seated.

Service of Proclamation

The Wisdom of Blessed Oscar Wilde

Rev Marian Cavagnaro

Who, being loved, is poor?

In these human words, God's voice is heard.

Thanks be to God.

The Wisdom of St. Mother Teresa

Rev Marian Cavagnaro

Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service. The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved. If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

In these human words, God's voice is heard.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from Luke's Gospel (1.39-46)

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord..."

In these human words, God's voice is heard.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Response

Advent

*Our Hope and Expectation, O Jesus, now appear!
Arise, thou Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord to see
The day of earth's redemption, that brings us unto thee.*

Please be seated.

The Anthem

*Seasons of Love
by Jonathan Larson*

Homily

*Season of Love
Rev Dr Durrell Watkins*

Invitation to Prayer

Please rise as you are able.

Prayer Chorus

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay close by me for-
ever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your
tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.*

Pastoral Prayer and Affirmations

Sign of Peace

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

*Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild:
New life, new hope the child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory,"
let the heavens ring.*

*Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild:
New life, new hope the child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory,"
let the heavens ring.*

Service of Sacraments

Sacrament of Sharing (Tithes & Offerings)

Rev Dr Robert Griffin

Stewardship Thought

"Giving and receiving are one in truth."
A Course in Miracles

Offering Prayer

*Divine Love, through me, blesses and multiplies all that
I have, all that I give, and all that I receive. Thank you,
God. Amen.*

Offering Music

*Love is Christmas
By Sara Bareilles
Performed by Tara Sperry*

Rise as you are able.

Doxology

Old Hundred

*Praise God the Good we all may share;
praise God the Beauty everywhere.*

*Praise God the Hope of Good to be;
praise God the Truth that makes us free.
Amen.*



Sacrament of Hospitality Eucharistic Intentions

Deacon Michael Karban

We Remember

Paul Grant	12/19/1989	Joseph Novotny	12/22/1994
William DeBar	12/19/1994	Bruce Edgerly	12/23/1993
Chad Blackwell	12/19/1996	Clara Scinto	12/23/2010
Jay Tramontozzi	12/19/1996	Wes Brooks	12/24/2003
Richard Drews	12/19/1996	Chuck George	12/24/2004
Herbert Hackney	12/19/1998	Ray Dillinger	12/25/1995

Rainbow Candle Lit Today

In Memory and Honor of all
Sunshine Cathedral Members and Friends
Affected or Infected by COVID-19

by
The Sunshine Cathedral Staff

Advent Confession

Rev Marian Cavagnaro

One: May we be forgiven for forgetting our divine nature.
All: May we be forgiven for failing to see the sacred value of all people.

One: May we be healed of judging ourselves, and others, too harshly.
All: May we forgive ourselves for not trusting in the absolute goodness and unconditional love of God.

One: May we forgive ourselves and others of all mistakes, real or imagined, since God has always and only seen the truth of our endless goodness.
All: May we now let our light shine and live as the children of God that we are. Amen.

Sung Response

No Day But Today

There's only us, there's only this. Forget regret, or life is yours to miss.

No other road, no other way, no day but today. I can't control my destiny. I trust my soul, my only goal is just to be.

There's only now, there's only here. Give into love, or live in fear.

No other road, no other way, no day but today. No day but today.

Intercessions

Deacon Michael Karban

One: For the Sunshine Cathedral Global Fellowship and local congregation, for all who are on our prayer list, for our loved ones, for world and community leaders, and for our own needs, let us pray:

Prayer of Divine Mercy

Loving Creator, we remember the wisdom and love, Peace and integrity of your blessed anointed one – our Lord Jesus Christ Who taught of your love for us and also the whole world

For the sake of your infinite goodness please smile upon us and on the whole world.

For the sake of your infinite goodness please smile upon us and on the whole world.

For the sake of your infinite goodness please smile upon us and on the whole world.

Holy God, holy mighty One, holy immortal One Give blessings to us and to the whole world.

Holy God, holy mighty One, holy immortal One Give blessings to us and to the whole world.

One: And with people all over the world we pray –
All: May peace prevail on earth.

These prayers we offer in the spirit of Jesus, son of Mary, and as he did we continue to pray:

Model Prayer

Creator which art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And leave us not in temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The Lord's Supper

Words of Remembrance

Rev Dr Durrell Watkins

One: On the night of his arrest Jesus shared a meal with his friends and family of choice. After supper, he took a piece of bread, broke it, and offered it to those at table. Sharing together made them one body. Jesus said, "When you do this, (+)remember me."

One: He then took a cup of wine and shared it with the others. Sharing reminded them that they were bound together in a covenant of love. Jesus again said, "When you do this, (+)remember me."

Chorus

*Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes;
venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte Regem angelorum.
Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
venite adoremus, dominum.*

Invitation to Communion Rev Kevin Tisdol

These are the gifts of God for all the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Communion is Shared

Communion Song O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children
dwell. Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching
heart bid cheer. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come
within as Love to dwell.*

*O come, you Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields
to might. O come, and turn all hearts to peace, that greed
and war at last shall cease. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Truth to dwell.*

*O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by our
presence here. And dawn in every broken soul as vision
that can see the whole. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall
come within as Light to dwell.*

*O come, you Wisdom, from on high, from depths that hide
within a sigh, to temper knowledge with our care, to render
every act a prayer. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come
within as Hope to dwell.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev Dr Robert Griffin

Please rise as you are able.

The Prayer of Protection

*The light of God surrounds us; the love of God enfolds us.
The power of God protects us; the presence of God watches
over us. Wherever we are, God is.*

Benediction Rev Dr Durrell Watkins

Final Song Love Train

Commissioning

One: Our worship has ended. Let our service begin!
All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude Barbara Ramcharitar

SILENT HELPERS PRAYER MINISTRY

Centering Thought

"God sufficeth all things above all things, and nothing
in the heavens or in the earth but God sufficeth. Verily,
[God] is...the Knower, the Sustainer, the Omnipotent."
The Bab

**LET US PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE ON OUR PRAYER
LIST AND FOR ALL WHO ARE ON OUR HEARTS:**

Lewis family; Pat; Angel C. (of blessed memory); C.
Walsh; A. Colon; MariaEster; Rey V.; Lucas D.; Will D.;
JL; Lydia P.; NN; Bob; Tim L.; Rosemary; Lee; Mary; S.
Julia; MK; Lex; Leigh; Erin; Mimi; Jess; Mari AC; Anita;
Sarah; Dale; MLF; Yubraj; Cecilia; Ruby & John; JW;
JH; "The Center" in AP; all who are living with HIV; SD
& KW; Laurie; Joey; Attard family; M. Boyse; R.; Daniel
C.; Lafave; Georganna; Juliet; Jackie DLS (of blessed
memory); our pet companions; Suzanne G.; Terry;
Michael; Maureen's daughter; Kelli M.; Andrew, David &
family; Peggy G.; Bill P.; Jamie; Montes; Daniel; George
(of blessed memory); Dani & Andrew & family; Pat,
Sherry; Cody; Steve; "Self"; Jamie; tornado survivors;
Leslie & Diane; Shawna; all who have been burdened
by the pandemic; those in nursing care and assisted
living facilities; LGBTQ+ communities; Troy & Phillip;
Don; Global Justice Institute; DSFI; the ministries of
Sunshine Cathedral; members & friends of Sunshine
Cathedral; all who are part of the Sunshine Cathedral
Global Fellowship

~Prayer~

*"I believe with all my heart in one Power, and that one,
Good." And so it is that I know myself to be part of the All
Good and forever blessed by the All Good. I also know
that Truth for me is Truth for all, and so everyone I hold
in prayer is also part of the All Good. Blessings abound.
Miracles are possible. I rejoice. Amen.*

REMEMBER:

Prayers can be submitted via Sunshine Cathedral.org
or by emailing any SC clergyperson.

You can hear a prayer at anytime by calling 954.462.2004
(press 6).



SunBurst News

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Dec. 24 at 7 pm & 9 pm.

LAST DAY TO BECOME A CHRISTMAS ANGEL

– Christmas Angels are those who make Sunshine Cathedral’s Christmas Eve services grand and glorious. Angels give gift designated amounts in honor of or in memory of loved ones and those gifts make Christmas Eve celebrations possible.

The angel gift amounts are \$125, \$250, \$500, and \$1000. Sponsors give \$5,000 or more. At whatever level you can, we invite you to become a Christmas Angel. For more information please contact Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin (robert@sunshinecathedral.net) or visit our website (SunshineCathedral.org).

HOLIDAY FOOD SHARING - our food sharing ministry will be offering holiday grocery bags to our clients. From Nov. 28 to Dec. 19 (TODAY). Please donate non-perishable food items that we can share. Any loaves & fishes team member can give you a list of what we need. Direct questions to Rev. Dr. Anne Atwell (anne@sunshinecathedral.org).

BROWARD WOMEN’S CHORAL GROUP - Home for the Holidays. This holiday program includes a variety of musical styles from joyous and traditional to humorous and modern. Something for everyone. December 19 (TONIGHT). Ticketed event.

SMILE.AMAZON - Support Sunshine Cathedral with your Amazon shopping. When you shop via Smile.Amazon.com you can designate a charity that Amazon will donate to (a small percentage of your purchases). Just make The Sunshine Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church, inc. your charity and every time you shop using Smile.Amazon.com you benefit your Sunshine Cathedral.

MASKS IN WORSHIP ARE OPTIONAL FOR THE VACCINATED – We encourage everyone to be fully vaccinated (including booster shots) and to sanitize your hands when entering the worship space. And if you aren’t feeling well, stay home (when you’re not well, let Sunshine Cathedral come to you via YouTube or Facebook).

FOLLOW US - We invite you to Follow Sunshine Cathedral on Facebook and subscribe to our YouTube channel. We are also on Tik Tok and Instagram. If our ministry has been a blessing to you, please tell others about the Sunshine Cathedral.

GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP - If you don’t live in the Fort Lauderdale area but are finding Sunshine Cathedral to be a primary source of spiritual enrichment in your life, we invite you to consider joining the Sunshine Cathedral Global Fellowship. You can learn about how you can become part of the Sunshine Cathedral Global Fellowship by visiting SunshineCathedral.org

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - We have launched a three year capital campaign to improve various areas of our physical property. Please consider making a pledge to that campaign. For more information, contact any member of the Sunshine Cathedral Board of Governors or reach out to Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin (robert@sunshinecathedral.org)

OUR SUNDAY BROADCAST is made possible by Happening Out Television Network and donors who support our televised ministry. HOUT TV is housed at Sunshine Cathedral Square.

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

December 21: Apostle Thomas (d. 72) – there is a sayings gospel attributed to Thomas (Gospel of Thomas) which may be as old as the canonical Gospel of Mark (c. 70 CE). Thomas was the only apostle not in hiding after Jesus’ execution. When others claimed to have experienced a resurrected Jesus, Thomas doubted them and said he would have to experience it for himself. Thomas was also the only apostle who voiced support for Jesus’ journey to visit Lazarus when he was ill. The other apostles were afraid the trip was dangerous, and Thomas said that as his disciples they should share in the danger and go with him. Thomas shows us that honest doubt can be part of profound faith.

Warren Felt Evans (1817 – 1889) – attended Middlebury and Dartmouth colleges. He became a Methodist minister and then left Methodism to join the Swedenborgian church (Church of the New Jerusalem). After visiting Phineas P. Quimby (the “father” of New Thought) for treatment for an ailment, Evans himself became a “mind cure” practitioner. He was the first to write about the healing methods used and taught by Phineas Quimby. WFE declared, “All outward power that we exercise over the things about us is but a shadow in comparison with the inward power that resides in imagination and will.”

Rabbi Abraham Heschel (1907-1972)—Teacher. A major force in Jewish spiritual renewal, Heschel came from a long line of Hasidic rabbis. After studying philosophy at Warsaw and Berlin he taught at several universities, eventually escaping to the United States from Nazi Germany. As a champion of interfaith dialogue, his writings exerted a tremendous influence on Christian thought. With a deep sense of prophetic justice, he sought to connect the mysticism of his Hasidic faith with the modern secular world.

Johnnie Colemon (1920 – 2014) – Johnnie Colemon experienced a dramatic healing when she discovered New Thought, but soon after encountered racism when she began studying for the ministry. Nevertheless, she completed her ministerial studies and was ordained. Later, she founded her own church (Christ Universal Temple), an association of churches and ministries (Universal Foundation for Better Living), and a ministry school. The theology of CUT & UFBL is “Fillmorean” (the philosophy of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore). Colemon taught the affirmation, “I am the thinker that thinks the thought that makes the thing.”

December 24: Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993) – Champion of positive thinking and author of *The Power of Positive Thinking* and founder of *Guideposts Magazine*. Peale was a Methodist minister who became Dutch Reformed so that he could pastor New York’s prestigious Marble Collegiate Church. Peale famously taught, “Change your thoughts and you change your world.” He also said, “If you paint in your mind a picture of bright and happy expectations, you put yourself into a condition conducive to your goal.” He praised enthusiasm: “There is real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment.” And he encouraged optimism: “Stand up to your obstacles and do something about them. You will find they haven’t half the strength you think they have.”

December 25: Nativity of Jesus (c. 4 bce)—The celebration of Christmas at the darkest days of Winter marks the birth of light and hope for the world. The traditional date of Jesus’ birth was determined in Rome in 336, taking the place of an existing Roman holiday, the birth of the Unconquerable Sun. The actual date Jesus was born was more likely in the Spring. The word “Christmas” goes back to the 12th century and is a contraction of “Christ’s Mass.”

Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary (circa 4 BCE – 29 CE) - is understood in a variety of ways. What one believes about Jesus has to do with how mystically/spiritually/allegorically oriented one is, or how “concrete” (or literalist) one tries to be. Historical criticism would point out that what we know of Jesus is at best second hand (and sometimes more removed than that), and that words attributed to him are never written in his own hand, but are written by people decades after his execution. His original followers saw him as a teacher and a healer. He was clearly a charismatic person who was able to draw crowds and impact people very deeply. Some people came to view him as the long awaited and hoped for messiah (a leader who would reestablish the independent Jewish state).

After his death, people glorified him all the more (as people do with slain heroes), and within a hundred years of his death some were remembering him as “God” in human flesh (similar to the Greek, Egyptian, and Roman gods of the time). In any case, he was someone who profoundly impacted human history and who continues to inspire people thousands of years after his death. People experienced and remembered him as being somehow God-filled, though the explanations of the experiences vary widely.

From the evidence we have, it seems that Jesus’ message was that all people are children of God and that the Realm of God is actually within the human spirit. He also seemed to believe that God was more concerned with people’s character, motivation, and true desires than with their religiosity or conformity to tradition or even to scripture. His teachings helped people feel liberated in spite of political oppression and whole in spite of physical maladies. A word often used for this wholeness and liberation is “salvation.”

Jesus, or so our stories about him suggest, was not opposed to reinterpreting old religious views to fit new realities and to include more people into the experience of God’s love and grace. He believed the most important commandment was simply to love, and he taught the Golden Rule, which is to do unto others as you would have others do unto you. He scandalized people of his time by eating

with people outside his social group, by being friendly with presumably corrupt tax collectors as well as with prostitutes, by healing even the enemies of his people (and healing at times when any work, including healing was forbidden), and by intentionally reaching out to and speaking well of Samaritans (who were often despised by his community).

Heraclitus (circa 535 – 475 BCE) - known for his teaching that change is central to the universe, summarized by his statement, “You cannot step into the same river twice.” He said that all things come to be in accordance with the Logos (that is, “word,” or “reason”). Notice that Heraclitus lived half a millennium before Jesus, almost 600 years before the writer of the Gospel of John (who opens his Gospel with, “In the beginning was the Logos...[and] all things came to be through [the Logos], and without [the Logos] nothing came to be”). Logos philosophy was alive and well long before the Church applied it to Jesus.

Ammonius Saccas (mid-third century CE?) - was an exponent of Neo-Platonism which was pantheistic (belief that the divine is all pervasive...God is all or is in all...not to be confused with panentheism, the belief that all is in God). Saccas believed that God is the only creator and that the ultimate reality of the universe is an infinite, unknowable, perfect ONE. It may have been Saccas who first used “Word” to define “Logos.”

Sunshine Cathedral Weekly Financial Information

Financial Data Snapshot from 12 December

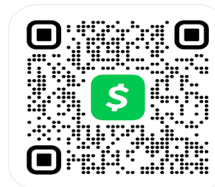
<i>Weekly Generosity Income Needed</i>	\$10,797.56
<i>Generosity Income Received</i>	\$41,242.14
<i>Our Abundance and/or (Need)</i>	\$30,444.58
<i>Per Capita Giving</i>	\$15.85

<i>Worship Services</i>	290
<i>Online Virtual Resourcing</i>	234,661
<i>Food Sharing Ministry - Total Reached</i>	547

*Detailed information located at
SunshineCathedral.org*

Donating to Sunshine Cathedral

***Venmo or CashApp
Venmo - @SunshineCathedral
CashApp - \$SunshineCathedral
Text to Give - 954.399.7333***



Sunshine Cathedral Scan to pay \$SunshineCathedral



venmo



The Cathedral Staff

1480 SW 9th Avenue
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33315
 954.462.2004
www.sunshinecathedral.org

Executive Leadership Team

Rev. Durrell Watkins, DMin, Senior Minister
 Rev. Robert Griffin, DMin, Executive Minister
 Rev. Anne Atwell, DMin, Minister of Connections
 Rev. Kevin Tisdol, Minister of Education
 Mrs. Sara Burns, Co-Director of Worship Arts & Vocalist
 Ms. Barbara Ramcharitar, Co-Director of Worship Arts & Organist

Artists-in-Residence

Tara Sperry, Vocalist
 Teresa Flores, Percussionist
 Gary Lane, Assistant Organist
 Jazz Pianist, OPEN,
 Cheryl Barth, Assistant Pianist
 Sam Miller, Videographer
 Phil McChesney, Handbell Director
 Kurt Litzenger, Set/Sound & Lighting

Support Ministries Leaders

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 Rev. Kurt Krieger, Seasonal Members Chaplain
 Rev. Marian Cavagnaro, Hospice Chaplain
 Rev. Ren Bell, Hospice Chaplain
 Rev. Lynda Pantoja, Interfaith Spirituality
 Rev. Margarita Rodriguez, Minister of Spiritual Companionship
 Rev. Nancy Davis, DD, A Course in Miracles
 Deacon Ed Huckemeyer, DD, Diaconal Minister of Pastoral Care
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 Deacon Lydia Chapman, Women's Ministries
 Deacon Michael Karban, Diaconal Minister of the Chancel
 Deacon Sue Gallagher, EdD, Teaching Associate
 Peggy Brereton, Usher Team Leader
 Trevor Stewart, Bookkeeper

Consultant

Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Systems & Leadership

Officers of Sunshine Cathedral Board of Directors

Linda Edin, Chair; Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins, Vice-Chair;
 Cathy Tullo, Treasurer, Allan Dewes, Secretary
BOD@sunshinecathedral.net

Chair of Sunshine Cathedral Foundation

Phil McChesney
Info@SunFound.net

Sunshine Cathedral Online Schedule

Sunday

Sunshine Cathedral Facebook Live
Sunshine Cathedral YouTube Live
 10:30AM/ET - Sunday Worship

Monday - Saturday:

Sunshine Cathedral Facebook Live
 Noon/ET - Midday Prayers

Monday

Sunshine Cathedral Facebook Live
 6PM/ET - 6:30PM/ET - Christians & Cocktails

Monthly Collection Programs

1st Sunday - Loaves & Fishes: Food Collection

3rd Sunday - Clothing Collection
 (For BG Hospital & Housing Insecure Individuals)

Due to limited storage space, please bring items on designated Sundays only.

Note:

Sunshine Cathedral is not liable for any vehicle incident, including acts of nature, while attending any events.

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Sunshine Cathedral

Two Sunday morning services
 9:00AM & 10:30AM (LIVE BROADCAST)
 Sunday 5:00PM in *Second Life*

1480 SW 9th Ave
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
 954.462.2004

www.sunshinecathedral.org