

Welcome Home To Your . . .



Your Local & Global Queer Church Community for All.

A Positive Worship Experience

Today's Theme - Making Music in the Heart

Sunday, December 25th 2022

Christmas Day

All Are Welcome!



Service of Gathering

Welcome

Rev Dr Durrell Watkins
Rev Dr Robert Griffin

Announcements

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

Please rise as you are able.

Introit

*+O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go
by; yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting
light, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you
tonight.*

*+It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of
old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their
harps of gold; 'peace on the earth good will to all, great
news of joy we bring.' The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.*

*+Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and
voice; now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is
born today; ox and ass before him bow, asleep within the
manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today.*

*+Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er
all the earth; as you sang creation's story, now proclaim
Messiah's birth: come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, give thanks and sing.*

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

Crucifer - Tito McWilliams-Ramos

Processional Hymn *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar car-
ols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace
on earth, goodwill to all.*

*I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all
Christendom had rolled along the unbroken song of
peace on earth, goodwill to all.*

*And in despair I bowed my head, 'There is no peace on
earth,' I said, 'for hate is strong and mocks the song of
peace on earth, goodwill to all.'*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not
dead, nor does God sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right
prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to all."*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from
night to day, a voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace
on earth goodwill to all!*

Opening Prayer (Thich N'hat Hanh)

One: Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds.
Let us return to ourselves and become wholly ourselves.

One: Let us be aware of the source of being, common to
us all and to all living things.

One: Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion,
let us fill our hearts with our own compassion – towards
ourselves and towards all living beings.

One: Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be the cause
of suffering to each other. With humility, with awareness
of the existence of life, and of the sufferings that are going
on around us, let us praise the establishment of peace in
our hearts and on earth.

Congregation: Amen.

Sung Response

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant
to be, with God our creator, family all are we. Let us walk
with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,
with every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take
each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

Please be seated.

Service of Proclamation

The Wisdom of Howard Thurman

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

When the song of angels is stilled, when the star in
the sky is gone, when the [magi] and [nobility] are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of
Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to
feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the na-
tions, to bring peace among the brothers [and sisters], to
make music in the heart.

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

Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

A Reading from Luke's Gospel (2.15-20)

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

The shepherds said to one another, "Come, let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." And so they set off in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

When they saw the child, they recounted the message that had been told them about him by angels. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. As for Mary, she treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen...

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

Thanks be to God.

Song of Response *Love Came Down at Christmas*

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token: love be yours and love be mine; Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Please be seated.

The Anthem

Una Fiesta
(Angels We Have Heard on High)
Traditional Carol Arranged By Lari Goss

Homily

Making Music in the Heart
Rev Dr Durrell Watkins

Altar Call and Anointing

Please rise as you are able.

Prayer Chorus *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the christ-child bring; peace on earth and mercy mild, God and seekers reconciled!'

Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angel host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the christ-child bring!'

Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness. Light and life our savior brings, risen with radiant, healing wings.

Mildly laying glory by, born that fear we might defy, born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the christ-child bring!'

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 Kevin Tidol

Stewardship Thought

"It is in giving that we receive." St. Francis of Assisi

Offering Prayer

May God bless every gift and ever giver. Amen.

Offering Music

O Holy Night
By Adolphe Charles Adam, Placide Cappeau, and
John Sullivan Dwight
Performed By Aaron Ball

Rise as you are able.

Doxology

*Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo,
glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo.*



**Sacrament of Hospitality
We Remember**

Ray Dillinger	12/25/1995	Bob Astbury	12/29/1996
Jeff Adams	12/27/1986	Arnold Thomas	12/29/1998
Valariee Morris	12/28/1994	Wayne Bennett	12/29/2014
Kurt Depetris	12/28/1998	Paul Bass	12/30/2014
George Lane	12/28/2005	Ben Cacciamani	12/31/2003
Norman McLean	12/28/2008	Dominic Desantis	12/31/2019
Fernando Herrea	12/29/1991		

Eucharistic Intentions Deacon Michael Karban

We celebrate this Eucharist to the glory of God and with special intentions for the Sunshine Cathedral Global Fellowship and local congregation, and with people all over the world we pray,

May peace prevail on earth!

In praise of the Source of life, in hope for a world that is fair and abundant for everyone, trusting grace equal to every need, acknowledging that we all make mistakes and at times need new chances, and seeking harmony and joy in our lives, we continue our prayers using the words of Jesus:

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 Rev Dr Robert Griffin

Invitation to Communion Rev Dr Anne Atwell

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

Communion is Shared

Communion Song *O We Believe in Christmas*

O we believe in Christmas, and we keep Christmas day; and we will honor Christmas the ancient worldwide way: the Christmas of all peoples, the sun's returning cheer rung out from towers and steeples at midnight of the year.

Shine out ye lights of Christmas from hearth and tree and star! And let the warmth of Christmas shed kindness near and far! And clang, ye bells of Christmas, upon the frosty air! And may the joy of Christmas spread gladness everywhere!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev Kevin Tisdol

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

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth its praises bring;
let every heart prepare Christ room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Christ fills the world with truth and grace,
and Makes the nations prove
the glories of God's righteousness
and wonders of God's love,
and wonders of God's love,
and wonders, wonders of God's love.*

Commissioning

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

Postlude

Barbara Ramcharitar

Merry Christmas!



Remember to visit the Sunshine Cathedral Center for the Performing Arts site at SunshineCathedral.org/Arts - great upcoming performances in 2023.

HAVE A BLESSED
week ahead

**Sunshine Cathedral Weekly
Financial Information**

*Performing Arts Raffle: 10 Sold of 200
Cruise Raffle: 3 Sold of 200*

Financial Data Snapshot: 18 December

<i>Weekly Generosity Income Needed</i>	\$11,819.81
<i>Generosity Income Received</i>	\$15,532.17
<i>Our Abundance and/or (Need)</i>	\$3,712.36
<i>Per Capita Giving</i>	\$20.97
<i>SC Square Worship Services</i>	285
<i>SC Global Fellowship</i>	167,622
<i>People at SC Square (Weekly Avg)</i>	4,500
<i>Food Sharing Ministry - Total Reached</i>	718

*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

SILENT HELPERS PRAYER MINISTRY

WE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING...

Carol; Vicki; Marco; Those terrified, hurt, and who experienced loss from the Club Q shooting in Colorado Springs; Warren D.; Deb T.L.; Sharon & Dale; the people of Ukraine; Lennie; Terri & her mother; Rodney; Adrienne & Carmelo; Lewis family; Paar N.; Jaya; Dani & Andrew; Laslao & family; Osmay & Brian; Karen; Linda & Monica; Martha; Austin; One with many souls on her heart; Donna MW; DonnaChristine; Braden;

Nisha; Jeff and Ken; those incarcerated and those who work in prisons; TT; Jamie; Michael & Pam; Carolyn; Helen & Johnny; Frieda (of blessed memory); those lost to AIDS; all who are living with HIV; John; Harry; Carol; Mark; Virginia; Rose E. (of blessed memory); Bob & Kevin; Ringoen family; Cathy's family; Ronnie; Dave C.; Anecia; Kenneth Q.; Mark/Crystal; KW & SD; Charlotte; James L.; Rick M; Princess; LGBTQ people of Qatar; Gary M.; RW; MaryEmma (of blessed memory); Julie C.; Hillary; Stan C. (of blessed memory);

JP Alexander family; Gary M.; Sandy; Gerry C.; Hermione J.; Virginia; Aaron; Peggy; Kevin & Kelli; Rockie; M.;

Errol (of blessed memory); Thomas A.; TA's mother; Dan; Mandino; Eunice; Anthony A. (of blessed memory); Barbara & Tom; Baby Zaedyn; Cathy's family; Marcia & Bill; Ken; Beverly B.; Sherry & Pat; Carol & family; Sandy; grieving families; Grandma Jean; Don; Betty; Jeanne; Faye; BY; all for whom the holidays are difficult; Trevor; MLF; Anita; Don E.; Steve P.; Troy & Phillip; those in nursing care and assisted living facilities;

LGBTQ+ communities; Global Justice Institute; DSFI; the ministries of Sunshine Cathedral; members & friends of Sunshine Cathedral; all who are part of the Sunshine Cathedral Global Fellowship

Let us pray

Trusting in a Higher Power, I affirm blessings for each of these committed to the care of our prayers. We are forever loved and divinely embraced. We are all part of a glorious Whole; we are each individualized expressions of a loving, omnipresent Life. May each person now experience peace and joy. Let miracles abound. Amen.

REMEMBER

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

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

SunBurst Cathedral News

LOAVES & FISHES – Non-perishable food items will be received next Sunday to help keep our food pantry well stocked. The first Sunday of each month we collect food for our food sharing ministry whereby we feed up to 800 people every week. Your donations of non-perishable food is helping people in our community avoid food insecurity.

PERFORMING ARTS RAFFLE (win seats to 10 shows) - To see a listing of upcoming shows visit SunshineCathedral.org or pick up a Season Guide. To purchase raffle chances go to sunshinecathedral.org/give and scroll to Performing Arts Series raffle. The ticket is really a donation to help the church, and as a thank you, every generous donor is given a chance to win a prize, and one lucky donor will actually win.

ANOTHER RAFFLE - CRUISE RAFFLE (win a cruise to countries on 3 continents) - You and a guest could win a chance to sail with Sunshine Cathedral. Please visit HappeningOut.Travel/Sunshine for complete cruise details. Raffle chances can be obtained under the “Give” section of the Cathedral website (sunshinecathedral.org). Remember, the ticket is really a donation to help the church, and as a thank you, every generous donor is given a chance to win a prize, and one lucky donor will actually win.

REVELATION: A THREE WEEK STUDY – January 11, 18, and 25 Our midweek bible study will be on the Book of Revelation. No drag this time, just a deep study of a book that has caused a lot of people anxiety but is actually a creative text of resistance to oppression and hope for liberation. 7 pm (free).

GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP – Those who don't live locally but who wish to be part of the Sunshine Cathedral community can learn about the Sunshine Cathedral Global Fellowship by visiting SunshineCathedral.org

OUR SUNDAY BROADCAST is made possible by Happening Out Television Network and donors who support our televised ministry. Happening Out is housed at Sunshine Cathedral Square. Happening Out programming can be viewed on YouTube, Facebook, Amazon Fire, Apple TV, Google TV, and Roku.

CATHEDRAL SECURITY – Sunshine Cathedral has security cameras throughout the property, a good relationship with law enforcement, and extra security is hired or provided by police at select events. Our staff has had heightened awareness training, and during services we keep all doors other than the front entry doors locked. We have people throughout the worship center every Sunday who intentionally keep a look out for suspicious activity. We are doing everything possible to keep our worshiping community safe. If you ever feel unsafe, you can watch services online from home – whenever you use that option please remember that there are significant costs to streaming our services and we hope you will support our streaming ministry with generous donations. We take security seriously and are doing all we can to keep this a safe place for us all.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

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) - 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.

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 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."

December 26: St. Stephen (5 - 34) — Deacon and martyr. Most likely a Hellenistic Jew, Stephen is remembered as one of the first deacons chosen in the early Christian community in Jerusalem to aid the Apostles by caring for the sick and needy. Stephen's story is told in Acts 6-7.

E. Otis Charles (1926 – 2013) – Bishop of Utah in the Episcopal Church, member of the Standing Liturgical Commission (which developed the 1979 version of the Book of Common Prayer), Bishop in Charge for Navajoland, and after he retired from diocesan duties, became the President and Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School. In 1993 Bishop Charles "came out" as gay, reportedly the first bishop in a mainline denomination ever to do so.

Desmond Mpilo Tutu (1931 – 2021) was a South African Anglican bishop, Archbishop, and theologian, anti-apartheid and human rights activist, LGBTQ ally, and progressive Christian leader. His friendship with the Dalai Lama was world famous and inspiring.

December 27: St. John the Evangelist (6 – 100) — Apostle. John became, with Peter and James, one of the inner circle of Jesus' followers. Ancient icons picture him as the "Beloved Disciple" at the Last Supper with his head on Jesus' breast. Tradition holds that he took care of Mary after Jesus' death on the cross, and that he later settled at Ephesus in modern Turkey. It is John who reminds us over and over of Jesus' command for us to love one another.

December 29: King David & Jonathan – Rev. Kittredge Cherry has written, "The modern idea of sexual orientation didn't exist in Biblical times, but the powerful love story of Jonathan and David in 1 and 2 Samuel suggests that same-sex couples are affirmed and blessed by God." Jonathan and David shared a special bond and a lifelong covenant. In song, David affirmed he loved Jonathan in a way that he never loved a woman. David replaced Jonathan's father as king.

Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894) – wrote the Christmas carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter." She also modeled for some of her brother's paintings. Rossetti never married and it has been suggested that in her teens she wrote love poems for women but her brother disposed of them when publishing her writings.

December 30: Ada B. Fay (18813 – 1943) – joined the Denver Divine Science church in 1899, became superintendent of the Adult Sunday School in 1902, was ordained in 1916, received a Doctor of Divine Science degree in 1919, and authored The Divine Science Bible Textbook.

Merry Christmas

&

Happy

New Year

Sunshine Cathedral Programming

Administration Ministry
Assisted Living Facility Ministry
Broadcasting Ministry
Center for the Performing Arts
Local & National Partnership Ministry
Food Sharing Ministry
Global Fellowship Ministry
Global Justice Institute Partnership
Music Ministry
SAGE - Friendly Visitor Program
Samaritan Institute
Social Services - SUNSERVE
Sunshine Cathedral Foundation
Wellness Ministry
Worship Ministry

Sunshine Cathedral Partnership

AmazonSmile
BOLD Justice
Broward House
Broward Women's Choral
Care Plus
Care Resource
The Cupboard - Kosher Pantry
Feeding South Florida
Gateway Terrace Apartments
Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida
Happening Out TV Network
Homeless Outreach - Hollywood
Latinos Salud
Medflo (ALF)
Opera Fusion
Our Fund
The Pantry of Broward
Paradise Manor (ALF)
Pride Center
Project Lifeline (United Way)
Publix
SAGE
Salvation Army
Campbell's Company
Fort Lauderdale Seventh-Day Adventist Church
South Florida Hunger Coalition
TLC Little Free Pantry
Unlimited Healthcare
Women in Distress

Note:

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The Cathedral Staff

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

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Gabe Salazar, Vocalist
Aaron Ball, Vocalist
Teresa Flores, Percussion
Felipe Diaz, Percussion
Laura Gonzalez, Violin
David Suarez, Flute
Jihong Adams-Park, DMA (ABD), Pianist
Kurt Litzenberger, Set/Sound & Lighting
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Consultant

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

Chair of Sunshine Cathedral Foundation

Phil McChesney
Info@SunFound.net

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

SunshineCathedral.org