

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

10:00 AM

*+Please stand where indicated if it is comfortable for you.
All are welcome in this place of worship.
As you are seated, please silence your cell phones.*

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE (9:55) *How Great Our Joy!* Handel/Beethove
Silence is kept during the prelude to prepare our hearts for worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*(The Liturgy and reading are presented. Then the
Congregation will join in the response.)*

Isaiah 7: 10-16

And so we offer this mysterious prayer:

Lord Jesus, quickly come.

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN #215

*“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” Annuncia-
tion*

+OPENING PRAYER

Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. **Amen.**

+GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Gloria
**Gloria! In excelsis deo!
Gloria! In excelsis deo!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

+SONG OF PEACE #204

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” McGee

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Tabitha Jordan

Children who wish to attend Sunday School are dismissed to Classroom A

WE HEAR THE WORD

+PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, and the rejoicing. Speak to us by your word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. **Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 1: 1-7 Pew Bible NT Page 142

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

+HYMN OF PREPARATION #218

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” vs. 1-2 Carol

The Gospel is processed to the center of the congregation to signify that it is central to the church, our faith, and our lives.

+GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1: 18-25 Pew Bible NT Page 1

The Word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

+HYMN OF PREPARATION #198

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” vs. 3-4 Carol

SERMON

A Geography of Salvation Reverend Matthew M. Williams
Faith in Acceptance

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in Jesus Christ and the beauty that began in Bethlehem.

I believe in him whose spirit glorified a little town; of whose coming only the shepherds saw the signs, and for whom the crowded inn could find no room.

I believe in him whom the kings of earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose paths were among the common people, whose welcome came from the people of hungry hearts.

I believe in him who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible: whose cradle was a mother’s arms, whose home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at men and women and made them see what God’s love saw in them; who by God’s love brought sinners back to purity, and lighted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my everlasting need of God: the need of forgiveness for my greed and selfishness, the need of life for empty souls, the need for love for hearts grown cold.

Continued...

I acknowledge the glory of all that is like Christ:

The steadfastness of friends, the blessedness of homes, the beauty of compassion, the miracle of hearts made kind at Christmas, and the courage of those who dare to resist all passion, hate, and war. I believe that only by love expressed shall the earth at last be purified.

And I pray that redemption might begin in me. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN OF ADORATION #347 (vs. 1) *“Spirit Song” Spirit Song*

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *What Child Is This?* Traditional English Melody
Arr. Tom Fettke

+DOXOLOGY 94

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WE BEAR THE WORD IN THE WORLD

+RECESSIONAL HYMN #250

“Once in Royal David’s City” Irby

+BENEDICTION

Reverend Matthew M. Williams

+SUNG RESPONSE

Veni Emmanuel

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel!**

+POSTLUDE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory Henry T. Smart

CONNECT CARD



WELCOME! We’d like to help you get connected. Please fill out this card & place it on the offering plate.

Let us know how we can reach out to you!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

How long have you attended LH Church?

- 1st time guest 2nd time guest
 guest from out of town
 regular attendee member

I am interested in:

- Having the Pastor Contact Me
 Youth and Families
 Small Groups
 Missions
 United Methodist Women
 Men’s Prayer Group
 Strawberry Festival Volunteer
 Stephen Ministry
 Greeting and Ushering
 Communion Stewardship
 Fellowship Hour Hospitality

PRAYER REQUESTS

In everything by prayer...
Let your requests be made known
unto God.

Philippians 4:6

Please write your request here
and place it in the offering plate or
hand it to an usher.

Please pray for

Requested by

*Prayer requests are honored until
notification is received otherwise.
Please update us at 941-964-2479*

Date _____

Phone number () _____

Email _____

I would like someone to
contact me to pray over
more confidential
matters.

WELCOME!

All are welcome into the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church. We are honored that you are here. Please join us for refreshments after the service in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will worship with us again as we continue to discover the difference God's love makes in our lives!

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Saturday, December 24: Family Service @ 5:00 PM, Candlelight Services @ 7:00 & 9:00 PM

Sunday, December 25: Worship at 10:00 AM

CHOIR REHEARSALS SCHEDULED TO RESUME

"Choir rehearsals will resume on January 5, 2017. We will again start with separate rehearsals for men and women at 4 PM followed by a combined rehearsal from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. It is my plan to have the choir begin singing at the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, January 8. There will also be a brief warm up rehearsal, each Sunday, beginning promptly at 10 AM in the sanctuary. It will be wonderful to again experience the return of familiar faces and voices. I sincerely hope that we will see some new faces joining in fellowship as we share our time and talents while lifting our voices in musical praise to God. May each of you be filled with God's abundant blessings during this Advent season of anticipation and fulfillment, and as we enter a new year!" ~ David Hamblin

COME SHARE THE LIGHT! January 29, 2017 at 4:00 PM

Lighthouse Church will host a musical concert benefitting the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Tickets are \$40.00 each. Lynda Jamison will be joined by Rev. Matthew and Joy Williams. Please contact Beth Paxton at 941-830-8179 or mbethpaxton@gmail.com to purchase tickets and they are also available at the church administrative office.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Anyone experiencing grief or loss of any kind is invited to attend a Support Group at the parish hall of Our Lady of Mercy Church beginning Monday, January 9 at 8:30-10:00 AM. There will be four Sessions in January and four in February. Please call facilitator Grace Ott at 941-964-2167 with questions and for more information.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Men's Prayer Group meets every Thursday at 8:00 AM in the church administrative office. The meetings include a brief Bible Study as well as individual and group prayers. All men are welcome to attend!

ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES

Special thanks to J.T. Turner for offering up the parking lot at P.J.'s Seagrille for use during the Sunday service!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness

Our gifts as of December 11, 2016

OPERATING BUDGET	<u>\$496,000.00</u>
PLEGGED TO DATE	<u>\$388,030.00</u>
PLEGGES, OFFERING, PLATE RECEIVED	<u>\$485,122.00</u>

SPECIAL THANKS FOR SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY!

Ushers: Ray Smedley and Martin Lyons

Liturgist: Mary Ann Roelse

Hospitality Hosts: Pam and Larry Hannah

Acolyte and Cross Bearer: Hannah Amen & Abigail Turner

Audio Visual Technology: Liam Hugger and Grant Reeher

Sunday School: Leslie Barrett



Lighthouse United Methodist Church

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941-964-2479

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A Stephen Ministry
Congregation

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CONTACTS

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Betty Jean Legg, Financial Assistant

bjlegg@bgighthouseumc.com

Cindy Crespo, Sexton

David Hamblin, Director of Music

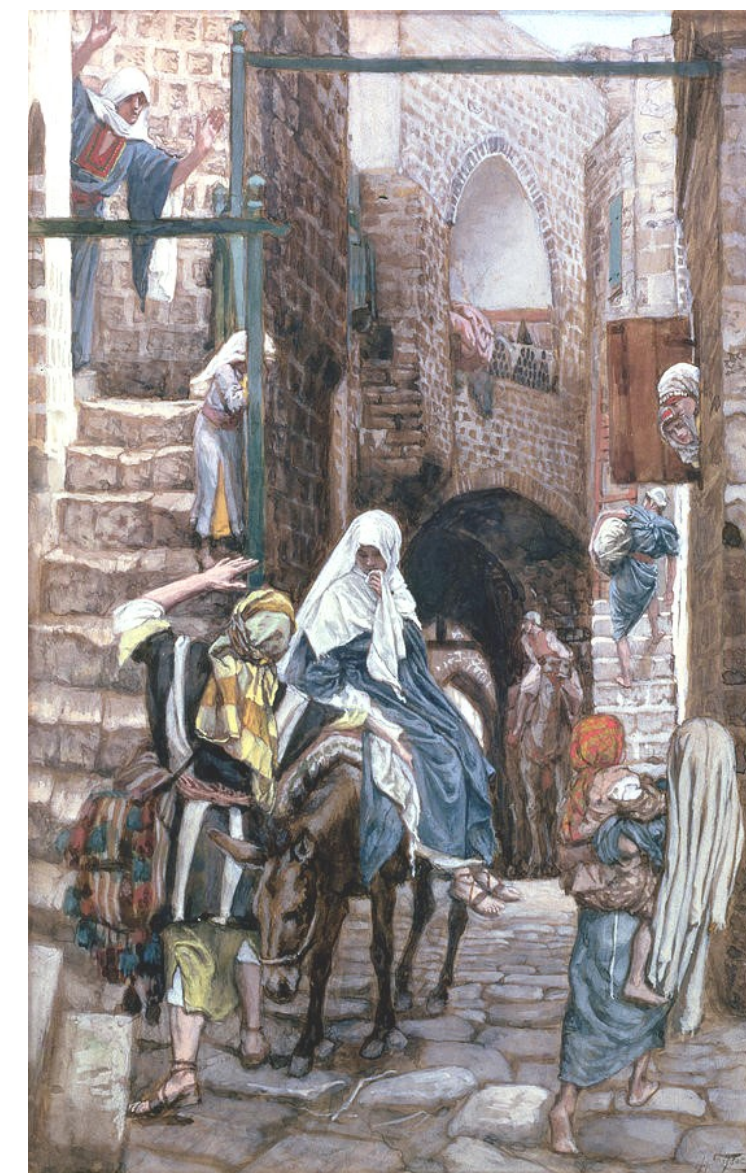
Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist



BOCA GRANDE
Lighthouse Church
A United Methodist Congregation

December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent

RECEIVING THE LIGHT, BEING THE LIGHT, SHARING THE LIGHT



The season of Advent is a time of waiting for the promises of God. The God who has drawn near to Israel will soon draw nearer still in the form of a baby. The scripture lessons emphasize the promises that are to be fulfilled. Isaiah foretells the birth of a child to be called Immanuel, meaning "God with us." The introduction to Paul's letter to the Romans reveals how Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise and opened the door of salvation to Gentiles as well as Jews. In Matthew, Joseph is visited in the night with the strange message of Jesus' coming birth.