

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.
For those with infants a staffed nursery is available.

We Gather Around the Word

PRELUDE

Three Variations on "Veni, Emmanuel" Plainsong, Mode I,
Adapted by Thomas Helmore, arr. Gregg Sewell
Silence is kept during the prelude to prepare our hearts for worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ed Paxton, Lay Leader

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Benson Family
Reader : We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the way. Let us rejoice with joy that Christ is our salvation. Surely God is our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid. The Lord God is our strength and our might; God has become our salvation.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN #203

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" Ellacombe

+OPENING PRAYER

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

+GLORY BE TO GOD, CREATOR

Glory be to God, Creator, glory be to God the Son, glory be to God the Spirit, known as Three, yet God the One. As it was in the beginning, it is now and so shall be in a world without ending, glory through eternity. Holy, holy God Almighty, holy, Prince of Peace, holy, holy wind of Presence, holy, holy, holy. **Amen.**

+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

We Hear the Word

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (In unison)

God for whom we watch and wait, prepare our hearts through the hearing of your word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 12: 2-6 Pew Bible OT Page 603

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 4: 4-7 Pew Bible NT Page 187
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

+GRADUAL HYMN #221 vs. 1-2

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Cranham

+GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1: 18-24 Pew Bible NT Page 1
The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

+GRADUAL HYMN #221 vs. 3-4

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Cranham

SERMON Joseph of Bethlehem The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

We Respond to the Word

+A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

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 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.

Continued...

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.

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.

HYMN OF ADORATION #347

"Spirit Song" vs. 1 Spirit Song

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus from "Psalmody Sacra"
Arr. Edward Broughton

+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 #224

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice" In Dulci Jubio

+BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

+POSTLUDE

Rejoice, the Lord is King John Darwall
Arr. James Mansfield

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
 Singing in the Choir

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

Date _____

Phone number () _____

Email _____

**PRAYER REQUESTS ARE HONORED
UNTIL NOTIFICATION IS RECEIVED
OTHERWISE. PLEASE KEEP US UP-
DATED AT 941-964-2479**

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! For those with infants, a staffed nursery is available; please ask one of the ushers for directions.

**VISITORS, PLEASE PICK UP A GIFT BAG IN THE NARTHEX AS A
TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION!**

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINNING IN JANUARY

As an act of radical hospitality for our community, and to accommodate our in-season growth, the Lighthouse Church will begin hosting three Sunday worship services January 6.

8:00 - 8:30 AM

A Service of Word and Table

This service will offer Holy Communion each week and a short homily based on the assigned readings of the day. There will be no musical elements in this service.

9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

Festive Liturgical Services

These services will be approximately one hour in length and will offer our full liturgy with music. Holy Communion will be offered on the first Sunday of the month.

CHOIR REHEARSALS TO RESUME

Choir rehearsals will resume on January 3, 2018. 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 on Sunday, January 6. There will also be a brief warm up rehearsal, each Sunday in the sanctuary. I look forward to the return of familiar faces and voices and hope that we will also have some new faces sharing their time and talents while lifting their 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.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Come share in this special recalling of the Christmas Story through scripture lessons and traditional carols, this evening at 5:00, preceded by an extended musical prelude before the service. Reception following in Fellowship Hall.

HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK

It's that time of year again! The Harry Chapin food barrels are located outside the church office and the main church entrance and ready for your donations of canned and dry food to help fight hunger in SW Florida.

USHERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES!

We are in need of ushers for the 7:00 and 9:00 Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve services! Sign up sheets are in Fellowship Hall – thank you and Merry Christmas!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness

Our gifts as of December 9, 2018

2018 OPERATING BUDGET	\$564,000.00
PLEDGES, OFFERING, PLATE RECEIVED	\$530,193.00
MISSION GIVING	\$199,168.00
UMW MISSIONS	\$59,840.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$1,765,756.00

Special Thanks for Serving in the Lord's House today!

Ushers: Donna & Jack Harms

Cross Bearer: Abigail Turner

Acolytes: Lachlan Barrett & Ian Egbert

Liturgist: Dutch Heidsieck

Hospitality Hosts: Ellie & Jim Crawford

Audio Visual Technology: Mike Hilton



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**A Stephen Ministry
Congregation**

Contacts

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David Hamblin, Director of Music

dhamblin@bglighthouseumc.com

Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist

Carol Elwood, Choir Director

Al Nethery, Accompanist

Cindy Crespo, Sexton

Abigail Turner, Nursery Attendant



BOCA GRANDE
Lighthouse Church
A United Methodist Congregation

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

Receiving the Light, Being the Light, Sharing the Light



On this third Sunday of Advent we focus on the peace of the coming Kingdom of God. Isaiah prophesies the Lord's coming salvation, and how God's people can trust in God's good plans, with shouts of expectant praise. Paul urges the church at Philippi to rejoice, reminding us that the Lord is near and that prayer, rather than anxiety, must be the language of God's children. This prayer leads to the true peace in Christ Jesus that surpasses all understanding. In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist continues to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. He warns those listening that their faith must be active and bear fruit worthy of repentance. John points to Jesus as the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, enabling us to endure the trials of this life with the fruit of Kingdom peace.