

# 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.  
The congregation will speak the liturgy in bold print.

## Gathering

**PRELUDE** *In Dulci Jubilo*—traditional German melody.  
Arr. Lloyd Larson —The Brass Quintet  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
based on plainsong, arr. Lloyd Larson-The Brass Quintet  
Silence is kept during the prelude to prepare our hearts for worship

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Linden Hustedt  
Lay Leader

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** The Benson Family

### Reader 1:

A reading from Isaiah chapter 35: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### Reader 2:

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.

**ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

## CENTERING

*Once in Royal David's City* The Brass Quintet  
Congregation remains seated.

**+OPENING PRAYER** The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

We Thank you, O God, for all those in Scripture who have pointed to Christ: for your prophets Elijah and Isaiah, for other prophets, and for John. We thank you, too, for those in our lives who have pointed us to Christ: pastors and teachers, strangers and friends. Give us eyes to see him today among those who are oppressed, imprisoned, brokenhearted, or beaten down, and we will give our testimony, too: how Christ releases and sets free; how he turns ashes into garlands; how he repairs and builds up what was ruined. We, too, will point others to Jesus, the Light of the world. **Amen.**

## +THE GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.**

## WORSHIP IN MUSIC

*See, Amid the Winter's Snow*—John Goss, quoting "Adeste Fideles" from John F. Wade's *Cantus Daiversi*.  
The Brass Quintet

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Kathy Peters  
Coordinator of Family Ministries

## Proclamation

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (In unison)  
**Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4  
The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## +GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28  
The Word of God for the people of God  
**Thanks be to God**

**HOMILY** *Testify to the Light*  
The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

## Response

## PRAYERS AND PRAISES

**HYMN OF ADORATION**  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem (VS4)*

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas Angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our 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 and ever. Amen.**

## Sending Forth

**+BENEDICTION** The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

Rejoice always,  
Pray without ceasing.  
Witness to the light of Christ  
so that all might believe through him.

Now may the God of peace  
call forth your complete dedication;  
may the light of Christ shine upon you;  
and the Holy Spirit fill you completely,  
now and forever.

**POSTLUDE** *Angel Carols (featuring "Gloria," "Meldelssohn," and "Regent Square.")*  
arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

**Thank you for your ongoing investment in the life and ministry of Lighthouse United Methodist Church of Boca Grande.**  
**An offering basket is located at the entrance of the Sanctuary.**

**We are grateful this morning to have the Lemon Bay High School Brass Quintet assisting in worship through music.**



## 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  
 Membership

## 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 UPDATED AT  
941-964-2479**

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

# Welcome!

We are honored that you are here! If you are a first time guest, please pick up a gift mug as a token of our gratitude for your presence here today. All are welcome into the congregational life, ministry, and membership of Lighthouse United Methodist Church. For information on baptism and membership, please contact us at [info@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:info@bglighthouseumc.com)

### Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group will be meeting every Thursday at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, except on holidays.

### UMW News

The UMW November and December gatherings have been cancelled. The UMW Board will be meeting soon to determine how to proceed in the new year. Stay tuned!

### Sanctuary Flowers

To beautify the Sanctuary, you are invited to place flowers in the chancel for Sunday Services. The total for two arrangements is \$75.00. To place flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please see the form in the weekly newsletter or contact the office at [info@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:info@bglighthouseumc.com).

### Weddings, Memorial Services, Columbarium

The Sanctuary is available for services of matrimony, funerals, and memorial services. For more information regarding facility use or columbarium inurnment, please visit [www.bglighthouseumc.com](http://www.bglighthouseumc.com) or contact the church office at [info@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:info@bglighthouseumc.com).

### Christmas Eve Services

In-person Christmas Eve services have been cancelled. The Family Service and the Candlelight and Holy Communion Service will be available online on Facebook and our YouTube channel beginning on Christmas Eve morning.

## Serving Today.

Liturgist: Joan Senior  
Usher: Bo Hamrick

## Contact Us

PO Box 524, Boca Grande, FL 33921  
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[www.bglighthouseumc.com](http://www.bglighthouseumc.com)  
[info@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:info@bglighthouseumc.com)  
[www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc](https://www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc)



STEPHEN  
MINISTRY

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

## Contacts

**The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor**  
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**David Hamblin, Director of Music**  
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**Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist**  
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**Mike Hilton, Audio/Video Technician**  
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**Cindy Crespo, Sexton**

**Gabriela Crespo, Nursery Attendant**

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness  
Our gifts as of December 9, 2020

OPERATING BUDGET.....	\$643,000.00
OFFERING.....	\$504,337.00
OUR COLLECTIVE GIVING	
YEAR-TO-DATE TO LOCAL AND	
GLOBAL MISSIONS.....	\$371,448.00
Coming from:	
DIRECT SPONSORED MISSION	
GIVING FROM THE CHURCH BUDGET.....	\$106,958.00
(18% OF CHURCH SPENDING TO DATE)	
Plus: UMW STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL	
SPONSORED MISSIONS.....	\$70,000.00
Plus: DIRECT INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONAL	
PASS-THROUGHS TO OUR MISSIONS.....	\$194,490.00



**LIGHTHOUSE**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
of  
**BOCA GRANDE**

## December 13, 2020

### Third Sunday of Advent

*Receiving the Light,  
Being the Light,  
Sharing the Light of Jesus Christ*



In the third week of Advent, God's promises of new life and healing echo through the scriptures. In Isaiah, a new age is dawning—an age where the broken-hearted are comforted, the captives are freed, and where places of destruction and ruin are transformed into places of life through the power of God. In the gospel of John, John the Baptist identifies himself as the voice in Isaiah who cries in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord," with the promise that God was doing something new in the midst of his people.