

Service of Worship

+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

ORGAN PRELUDE: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*
Michael Praetorius, arr. Mark Hayes/Douglas E. Wagner

PIANO PRELUDE: *"In the Bleak Midwinter" with "Away In a Manger"*
William J. Kirkpatrick, Gustav Holst, arr. Phil Perkins

Silence is kept during the prelude to prepare our hearts for worship

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Matthew, Joy and Ethan Williams

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O Come All Ye Faithful*

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide the magi to the holy child Jesus: we confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.
The minister speaks words of assurance.

MINISTRY IN MUSIC *O Holy Night*
Adolph Adam - Jackie Allen, Solo

Proclamation

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PREPARATION *Sussex Carol* Philip Eyrich

+GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-20
The Word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

HOMILY The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

Response

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 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, whose welcome came from people of hungry hearts.

I believe in Him who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible: whose cradle was a mother's arms, who was raised in Nazareth, who looked at men and women and made them see what his love saw in them; who by his 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 of 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, 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Thanksgiving and Communion

The United Methodist Church has an open communion.
All are invited to partake despite denomination or religious affiliation.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
The leader gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

...Give us such joy and peace in your company that our hearts join the angels in the Christmas sky and around your eternal throne, singing their hymn of unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The leader continues, invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit, and recalling the institution of the Lord's Supper.

The leader concludes:
... Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The leader praises the Trinity, concluding:

... through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Sending Forth

+CAROL AND CANDLE LIGHTING *Silent Night*

+BENEDICTION The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

Thank you for your ongoing investment in the life and ministry of Lighthouse United Methodist Church of Boca Grande.
You may give online [HERE](#).

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

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 or contact the church office at info@bglighthouseumc.com.

A Christmas Message



Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure that you are here to worship at the feet of the Christ-child. Tonight we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ—the coming of God to be Emmanuel, God with us. We remember this evening that Jesus did not come into a world of holiday cheer. Rather, his parents found no place to stay in Bethlehem. Jesus came to us as a humble child, meek and lowly, and was given a place to rest in a manger.

We celebrate the totality of Jesus' coming, including the celebration of Holy Communion. Bethlehem means "house of bread." Thus, as Jesus was born in Bethlehem, so we are born anew as we partake of the bread and cup that God in Christ fully offers all of humankind. Let us with joyful and humble hearts receive the greatest gift of all—Jesus, who is the Christ.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

Welcome!

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.

Contact Us

PO Box 524, Boca Grande, FL 33921
941-964-2479
www.bglighthouseumc.com
info@bglighthouseumc.com
www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Contacts

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor
mwilliams@bglighthouseumc.com

Rich Steinhelper, Minister of Pastoral Care
rsteinhelper@bglighthouseumc.com

Kathy Peters, Coordinator of Family Ministries
kpeters@bglighthouseumc.com

Hermila Perreault, Administrative Assistant
hperreault@bglighthouseumc.com

Cindy Handrick, Financial Assistant
chandrick@bglighthouseumc.com

David Hamblin, Director of Music
dhamblin@bglighthouseumc.com

Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist
peyrich@bglighthouseumc.com

Mike Hilton, Audio/Video Technician
mhilton@bglighthouseumc.com

Cindy Crespo, Sexton

Gabriela Crespo, Nursery Attendant



December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion

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



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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness
Our gifts as of December 21, 2020

OPERATING BUDGET.....\$643,000.00

OFFERING.....\$523,372.00

OUR COLLECTIVE GIVING

YEAR-TO-DATE TO LOCAL AND

GLOBAL MISSIONS.....\$455,408.00

Coming from:

DIRECT SPONSORED MISSION

GIVING FROM THE CHURCH BUDGET.....\$111,958.00

(19% OF CHURCH SPENDING TO DATE)

Plus: UMW STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

SPONSORED MISSIONS.....\$70,000.00

Plus: DIRECT INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONAL

PASS-THROUGHS TO OUR MISSIONS.....\$273,450.00

A new world is coming. The Scripture lessons for today carry a theme of promise and hope. Isaiah speaks tender words of comfort along with hope and promise that the Israelites' time of suffering is over, and a new day is coming. Every valley shall be lifted up. The passage from Isaiah reminds us that God's word stand forever and that God will provide for our every need as a Shepherd. Mark's gospel focuses on John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. In Advent, we remember that all our waiting, yearning, and hoping for God is met by God's waiting, yearning, and hoping for us.