

# 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

God calls us together to offer praise and  
celebrate our adoption as God's forgiven children.

**PRELUDE** Chorale Prelude on "In dulci jubilo"  
Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Michael Ryan  
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: Once God's plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight.  
Now God has disclosed what was kept secret for so very long; he has brought it out in the light. In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.

Reader 2: "With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens" (Psalm 89:1b-2).

Reader 3: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world. God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.

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

**+PROCESSIONAL HYMN #234** "Oh Come All Ye Faithful"  
ADESTE FIDELES

**+OPENING PRAYER** The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams  
Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name.  
**Amen.**

**+SUNG RESPONSE** GLORIA  
Glory be to God on High!  
Glory be to Jesus Christ!  
Glory to the Spirit, Son!  
Glory to the Three in One!  
Gloria, In excelsis Deo! Gloria, In excelsis Deo!

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM** See Insert  
Salem Elizabeth Maguire

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Kathy Peters

**MINISTRY IN MUSIC** Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming  
Philip Eyrich, Piano 16th-century German carol, arr. Lloyd Larson

## Proclamation

The Word is encountered in speech and song  
as scripture is interpreted and expounded.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)**  
Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait to hear your word; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Micah 5:2-5a OT Page #815  
The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**+GRADUAL HYMN #198** "My Soul Gives Glory to My God" vs. 1-3  
MORNING SONG

**+GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 1:46b-55 NT Page #46  
The Word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God**

**+GRADUAL HYMN #198** "My Soul Gives Glory to My God" vs. 4-5  
MORNING SONG

**HOMILY** The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

## Response

We respond by affirming our faith, lifting our prayers,  
and praising the triune God.

**+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, whose home in Nazareth  
had love for its only wealth, 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.

**HYMN OF ADORATION #347** "Spirit Song" SPIRIT SONG

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams  
**BLESSING OF THE HELPING HAND BACKPACKS**  
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.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

**OFFERTORY** Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine  
traditional German melody, arr. Mark Hayes/Douglas E. Wagner

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

## Sending Forth

We follow the Word into the world, sent forth  
with God's blessing to lives of service and love.

**+RECESSIONAL HYMN #179** "Oh Sing a Song of Bethlehem" KINGSFOLD

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

**+POSTLUDE** "Joy to the World"  
Lowell Mason, arr. Matthew McConnell

Today's altar flowers are given by Kathi and Linden Hustedt  
in celebration of their granddaughter's baptism  
Salem Elizabeth Maguire

Thank you for your ongoing investment in the life and  
ministry of Lighthouse United Methodist Church of Boca  
Grande.

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.bgighthouseumc.com](http://www.bgighthouseumc.com) or contact the church office  
at [info@bgighthouseumc.com](mailto:info@bgighthouseumc.com).

## 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).

### Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers are available to assist you. Should you need to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Ellie Durno at [durno1@comcast.net](mailto:durno1@comcast.net)

### Family Ministry Program

Lighthouse UMC is honored to walk with our children along their faith journey. We do so through the **WILD Center** where kids **Worship, Inspire, Learn, and Disciple**. We strive to bring Bible stories to life, guide them in going to God in prayer, and grow their personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus loves them and so do we!

### Mayfield, KY Relief

The Missions Committee is currently seeking matching funds toward their launch gifts for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Mayfield United Methodist Church. Most of the homes in the Mayfield area were completely destroyed by tornadoes just over a week ago and we hope to raise \$50,000 or more for their rebuild. Donations can be made by mail or in person at the Lighthouse Church office or on the [bglighthouseumc.com](http://bglighthouseumc.com) giving page.

### Christmas Eve Services

Three services will be held on Christmas Eve. The first at 5pm is the Family Service geared toward children. There will also be Candlelight and Holy Communion services at 7pm and 9pm.

### Upcoming Memorial Services

Howard Bruce Witt	Wednesday, December 29, 2021	11:00am
Ann Berry Fitzgerald	Saturday, February 19, 2022	11:00am
Jane Cartwright Carlson	Wednesday, March 23, 2022	Time TBD

### Englewood Helping Hand Food Bank

Members of our Mission Committee continue to collect nonperishable food items for the local food bank. More families than ever continue to rely on the food bank to feed their families. Please place your donations in the blue barrels in front of the church and the administrative offices. They are much appreciated!

### Save The Dates

**Sunday, January 9: Building Dedication and Open House** to celebrate the completion of the expansion project.

**Saturday, January 15: Chatham Rabbits Concert** at 7:00pm at the church. Tickets are available in the church office for \$25 each.

**Tuesday, March 1 at 5pm: Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Mardi Gras Celebration**

## Serving Today

Ushers: Donna and Jack Harms  
Liturgist: Candy Rost  
Hospitality Host: Kathy Peters

## Contact Us

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941-964-2479  
[www.bglighthouseumc.com](http://www.bglighthouseumc.com)  
[info@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:info@bglighthouseumc.com)  
[www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc](https://www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc)



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

## Contacts

**The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor**  
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**Kathy Peters, Family Ministries Coordinator**  
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**David Hamblin, Director of Traditional Music**  
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**Philip Eyrich, Director of Blended Worship Music**  
[peyrich@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:peyrich@bglighthouseumc.com)

**Allie teVelde, Audio / Visual Technician**

**Cindy Crespo, Sexton**

**Gabriela Crespo, Nursery Attendant**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!  
Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness  
Our gifts as of November 13, 2021

OPERATING BUDGET.....	\$630,000.00
OFFERING.....	\$573,929.00
OUR COLLECTIVE GIVING	
YEAR-TO-DATE TO LOCAL AND	
GLOBAL MISSIONS.....	\$348,242.00
Coming from:	
DIRECT SPONSORED MISSION	
GIVING FROM THE CHURCH BUDGET.....	\$113,965.00
(19% OF CHURCH SPENDING TO DATE)	
Plus: UMW STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SPONSORED	
MISSIONS.....	\$25,000.00
Plus: DIRECT INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONAL	
PASS-THROUGHS TO OUR MISSIONS.....	\$210,277.00



December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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



Today's scripture lessons focus on the anticipation and surprise of the Advent season. The reading from Micah reveals that the small town of Bethlehem will be the birthplace of a faithful and righteous ruler. Luke tells the story of Mary and Elizabeth, each of whom comes to know the surprising ways of God. Elizabeth, long barren, conceives John the Baptist, as foretold by the angel Gabriel. Mary visits Elizabeth after her own encounter with Gabriel and the news of her own unexpected pregnancy, and the women rejoice and marvel at the mysterious work of God.

