

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.

A staffed nursery is available for those with infants. Please ask an usher for directions.

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE (9:55)

Meditation on “Veni Emmanuel”

John Scriveyner

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

Bob & Ellie Young

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN #206

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Houston

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another:

Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed.

You who called for the light, forgive our preference for the shadows! You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.

We yearn for clean hearts, O God, and renewed spirits within us. Hear us, O God, as we come to you in this time of silence, confessing those sins we speak only in our hearts...

+DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

+GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Gloria! In excelsis deo!

Gloria! In excelsis deo!

Gloria

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+SONG OF PEACE #204

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” (sung twice)

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 ( In Unison)

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: prepare us now as we hear your word; give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Pew Bible OT Page 650-651

+GRADUAL HYMN #203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” vs. 1-2

Ellacombe

+GOSPEL LESSON

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The Word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Pew Bible NT Page 86

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

+GRADUAL HYMN #203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” vs. 3-4

Ellacombe

HOMILY

Tidings of Joy

Tabitha Jordan

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF ADORATION #347 (vs. 1)

“Spirit Song”

Spirit Song

MORNING PRAYER

Reverend Matthew M. Williams

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

COMMUNION MEDITATION

He Shall Feed His Flock

G.F. Handel/arr. Douglas

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The United Methodist Church has an open communion.

All are invited to partake regardless of denomination or religious affiliation. At the direction of the ushers, please come forward.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

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

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Adoration

Come to the Table

Let Us Break Bread Together

Monsell/Fettke

Martin Nystrom, arr. Douglas

Traditional Spiritual

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

WE BEAR THE WORD IN THE WORLD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Bill & Carrie York

+RECESSIONAL HYMN #240

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn

+BENEDICTION

Reverend Matthew M. Williams

+POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads

Steve Fry

CONNECT CARD

WELCOME! We’d

like to help you get con-

nected. 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 UMC?

- ☐ 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 Fellowship 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

Please remember that prayer requests  
are honored until we are notified  
otherwise. Please keep us  
updated at 941-964-1479

☐ I would like someone to  
contact me to pray over  
more confidential mat-  
ters.

WELCOME!

All are welcome into the life and ministry of the United Meth-  
odist Church. We are honored that you are here. A staffed  
nursery is available for those with infants. Please ask an usher  
for directions. 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!

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us **tonight** (Sunday, December 17) at 5:00 PM in  
the sanctuary as we celebrate the story of God’s incarnation  
and salvation with scripture readings accompanied by tradi-  
tional Christmas carols.

CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

Choir rehearsals will resume on January 4, 2018. We will again  
start with separate rehearsals for men and women at 4 PM fol-  
lowed by a combined rehearsal from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. It is my  
plan to have the choir begin singing at the 10:00 AM worship  
service on Sunday, January 7, and 10:30 AM when we return to  
two services on January 14. There will also be a brief warm up  
rehearsal, each Sunday, beginning promptly at 10 AM (9:30  
AM on January 7) in the sanctuary. It will be a pleasure to re-  
connect with returning choir members and to welcome new  
faces as we join in fellowship and 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 Ad-  
vent season of anticipation and fulfillment, and as we enter a  
new year. David Hamblin

LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

All elected officers, committee chairpersons and committee  
members are invited and encouraged to attend a Leadership  
Luncheon in Fellowship Hall, Tuesday, January 16, between  
11:00 am and 1:00 pm. The purpose of the luncheon is to wel-  
come the newly elected leaders to their committees, provide  
the opportunity for all committees to meet for the first time in  
2018, and for chairs to share information with the entire group.

Please RSVP to [aappearsall@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:aappearsall@bglighthouseumc.com)  
or 941-964-2479

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 SERVICES**  
10:00 AM (Liturgy for the 4th Sunday of Advent)  
5:00 PM (Family and Kids) 7:00 PM (Candlelight & Communion  
and Communion)

**MOM’S NIGHT OUT – Mondays at 5:30 PM**  
December 18, January 8 & 22, February 5 & 19, March 5 &  
19, April 9 & 23 and May 7 & 21

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!

Prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness  
Our gifts as of December 10, 2017

OPERATING BUDGET	<u>\$564,000.00</u>
PLEDGES, OFFERING, PLATE RECEIVED	<u>\$500,865.00</u>
MISSION GIVING	<u>\$165,787.00</u>

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

**Ushers:** Susan Hanafee & Ian Rogerson  
**Acolyte & Cross Bearer:** Hannah Amen & Abigail Turner  
**Communion Stewards:** Lynn & Steve Kieffer  
**Liturgist:** Jim Cooper  
**Audio Visual Technology:** Mike Hilton



PO Box 524 Boca Grande, FL 33921

941-964-2479

[www.bglighthouseumc.com](http://www.bglighthouseumc.com)



A Stephen Ministry  
Congregation



[www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc](http://www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc)

CONTACTS

Reverend Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor  
[mwilliams@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:mwilliams@bglighthouseumc.com)  
Tabitha Jordan, Minister to Youth and Families  
[tjordan@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:tjordan@bglighthouseumc.com)  
Amanda Pearsall, Administrative Assistant  
[aappearsall@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:aappearsall@bglighthouseumc.com)  
Cindy Handrick, Financial Assistant  
[chandrick@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:chandrick@bglighthouseumc.com)  
Cindy Crespo, Sexton  
David Hamblin, Director of Music  
Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist  
Linda Conklin, Nursery Attendant



BOCA GRANDE  
**Lighthouse Church**  
A United Methodist Congregation

December 17 , 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

RECEIVING THE LIGHT, BEING THE LIGHT, SHARING THE LIGHT  
COMMUNION SUNDAY



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 brokenheart-  
ed 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.