

# 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.

### WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

A Tender Rose Has Blossomed

German melody  
Arr. John M. Rasley

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jan Ryan and Greg Goetchus

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN #200

“Tell Out, My Soul”

Woodlands

+OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God,  
You sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed the warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

+GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

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 #246

“Joy to the World”

Antioch

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Tabitha Jordan

Children who wish to attend Sunday School are dismissed to Classroom A

### WE HEAR THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

(in unison)

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 146: 5-10

Pew Bible OT Page 549

CANTICLE OF MARY #199

Luke 1: 46b-55

The Magnificat

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

+HYMN OF PREPARATION # 219

“What Child Is This”

vs. 1-2

Greensleeves

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

Pew Bible NT Page 53

The Word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

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

+HYMN OF PREPARATION #219

“What Child Is This”

vs. 3

Greensleeves

SERMON

Sing of Mary

Reverend Matthew M. Williams

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

+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 the 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.  
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.

Continued...

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 (vs. 1)

“Spirit Song”

Spirit Song

MORNING PRAYER

Pastor Tabitha Jordan

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, for-ever and ever. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Fantasia on “Forest Green”

Lani Smith

The offerings from all three Christmas Eve services today are received as participation in the restoration of hope to Florida’s victims of Hurricane Irma

+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 #218

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Carol

+BENEDICTION

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

## 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

*Prayer requests are honored until notification is received otherwise. Please update us at 941-964-2479*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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!

### 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 welcome 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 [aapersall@bglighthouseumc.com](mailto:aapersall@bglighthouseumc.com) or 941-964-2479

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Family and Children 5:00 PM

Candlelight and Holy Communion 7:00 PM

Worship Services beginning January 14, 2018

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

MOM'S NIGHT OUT – Mondays at 5:30 PM

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 17, 2017

OPERATING BUDGET \$564,000.00

PLEDGES, OFFERING,  
PLATE RECEIVED \$522,411.00

MISSION GIVING \$171,892.00

## SPECIAL THANKS FOR SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY!

Ushers: Marilyn & Howard Witt

Liturgist: Mary Ann Roelse

Acolyte and Cross Bearer: Hannah Amen & Abigail Turner

Hospitality Hosts: Elise Elliott & Deb Houk

Audio Visual Technology: Mike Hilton

Sunday School: Leslie Barrett



Lighthouse United Methodist Church

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](https://www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc)

### CONTACTS

Reverend Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor

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Cindy Handrick, Financial Assistant

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David Hamblin, Director of Music

Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist

Linda Conklin, Nursery Attendant

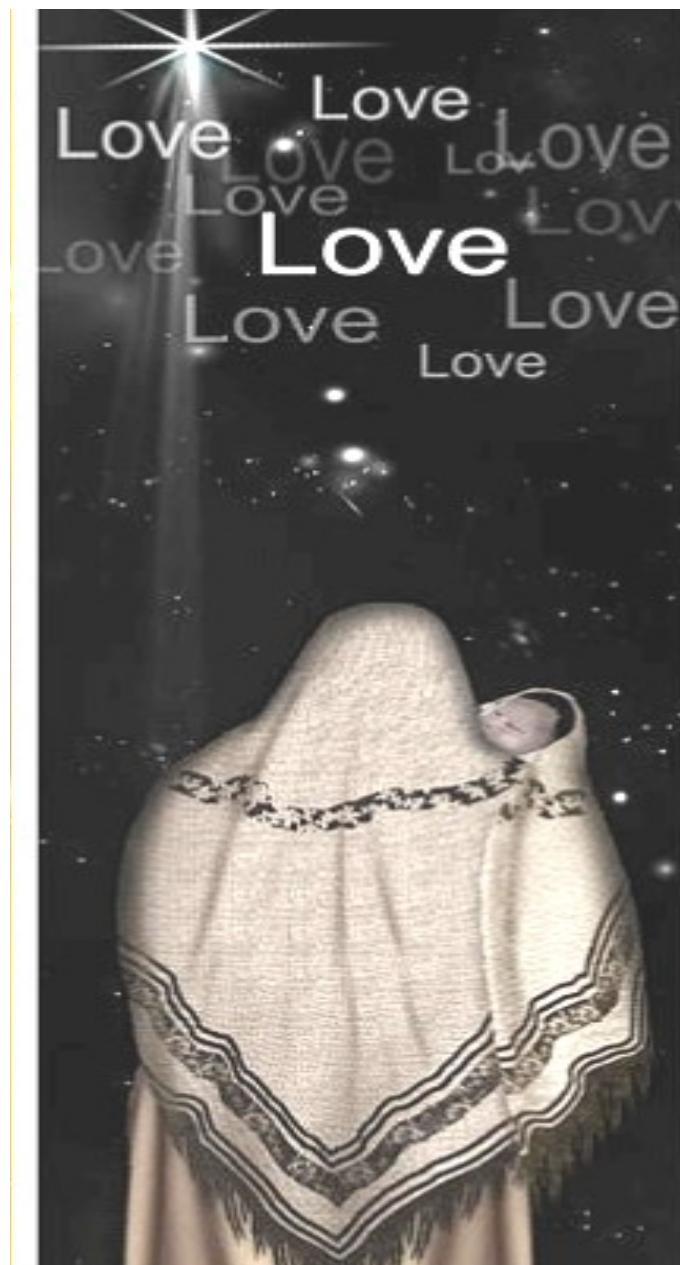


— B O C A   G R A N D E —  
**Lighthouse Church**  
A United Methodist Congregation

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

RECEIVING THE LIGHT, BEING THE LIGHT, SHARING THE LIGHT



The season of Advent is a time of waiting for the promises of God. The God who has drawn near to Israel will soon draw nearer still in the form of a baby. As we draw closer to Christmas Day, the scripture lessons emphasize the promises that are to be fulfilled. Luke recounts the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary and the surprising news of her holy pregnancy. Mary learns of her imminent participation in the promises of God in a way she never anticipated or imagined.