

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.
For those with infants a staffed nursery is available.

We Gather Around the Word

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 Ed Paxton, Lay Leader

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Elsa & Peter Soderberg

Reader One: We light this candle as a symbol that God is Love. We shall live secure in God's love, and rest in God's peace.

Reader Two: Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God, our salvation. God has filled the hungry with good things. God has remembered Israel, and God Remembers us.

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

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN #200

"Tell Out, My Soul" Woodlands

+OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you inspired the Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, to visit Elizabeth and assist her in her need. Keep us open to the working of your Spirit and with Mary may we praise you forever. We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+GLORY BE TO GOD, CREATOR

Glory be to God, Creator, glory be to God the Son, glory be to God the Spirit, known as Three, yet God the One. As it was in the beginning, it is now and so shall be in a world without ending, glory through eternity. Holy, holy God Almighty, holy, Prince of Peace, holy, holy wind of Presence, holy, holy, holy. **Amen.**

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you

+SONG OF PEACE #204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Tabitha Jordan

We Hear the Word

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (In unison)

God our redeemer, as you prepared humble Mary to be the mother of your Son, so prepare our hearts to receive your word now; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 5: 2-5b Pew Bible OT Page 815

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1: 47-55 Pew Bible NT Page 53-54
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

+GRADUAL HYMN #215

"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph" vs. 1-3 *Annunciation*

+GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 39-45 Pew Bible NT Page 53
The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

+GRADUAL HYMN #215

"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph" vs. 4-6 *Annunciation*

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

We Respond to the Word

+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 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.

Continued...

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.

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

"Spirit Song" vs. 1 *Spirit Song*

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Michael Praetorius
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

We Bear the Word in the World

+RECESSIONAL HYMN #230

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" *St. Louis*

+BENEDICTION The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

+POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Joy to the World"* Lowell Mason
Arr. Matthew McConnell

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

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 UP-
DATED AT 941-964-2479**

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! For those with infants, a staffed nursery is available; please ask one of the ushers for directions.

**VISITORS, PLEASE PICK UP A GIFT BAG IN THE NARTHEX AS A
TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION!**

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINNING IN JANUARY

As an act of radical hospitality for our community, and to accommodate our in-season growth, the Lighthouse Church will begin hosting three Sunday worship services January 6.

8:00 - 8:30 AM

A Service of Word and Table

This service will offer Holy Communion each week and a short homily based on the assigned readings of the day. There will be no musical elements in this service.

9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

Festive Liturgical Services

These services will be approximately one hour in length and will offer our full liturgy with music. Holy Communion will be offered on the first Sunday of the month.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Forward in Faith Building Committee will meet in an informal session in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 PM on January 13. Current design plans will be presented and discussed and an update on finances will be provided.

UMW LUNCHEON MEETING JANUARY 21

The UMW will meet in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 -1:00 Monday, January 21. The guest speaker is from "Take Stock in Children" for Charlotte County. She will share success stories of high risk students who went on to become college graduates. Bring a sack lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Contact Pam Hannah with questions and for more information.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING

The Church Administrative Office will be closed Monday, Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25, Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!
Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness
Our gifts as of December 16, 2018

2018 OPERATING BUDGET	\$564,000.00
PLEDGES, OFFERING, PLATE RECEIVED	\$547,929.00
MISSION GIVING	\$199,218.00
UMW MISSIONS	\$59,840.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$1,767,406.00

Special Thanks for Serving in the Lord's House today!

Ushers: Mary Ann Roelse & Bill Cunningham

Cross Bearer: Abigail Turner

Acolytes: Lachlan Barrett & Ian Egbert

Liturgist: Pat Witschonke

Audio Visual Technology: Mike Hilton



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**A Stephen Ministry
Congregation**

Contacts

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David Hamblin, Director of Music
dhamblin@bglighthouseumc.com

Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist

Carol Elwood, Choir Director

Al Nethery, Accompanist

Cindy Crespo, Sexton

Abigail Turner, Nursery Attendant



BOCA GRANDE
Lighthouse Church
A United Methodist Congregation

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Receiving the Light, Being the Light, Sharing the Light



On this fourth Sunday of Advent we celebrate the visitation of Mary to her relative Elizabeth. Elizabeth herself has miraculously conceived in her old age, and the child who will become John the Baptist leaps for joy in her womb. The child and his mother celebrate that Mary, though a virgin, has conceived Jesus, who will be the Savior of the world. The prophet Micah prophesied this miracle centuries before, declaring that the great ruler of God's people would be born in humble Bethlehem. Mary rejoices at the favor the Lord has shown her, as she sings praise to God in the song now known as the Magnificat. The faithfulness of God is proclaimed, the One who has come as the incarnate Christ-child to save and redeem us.