

# Service of Worship

7:00 PM

+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.

## Gathering

### PRELUDE

Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium" arr. David P. Dahl

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

### CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. and Joy Williams

Readers:

We light the candle of hope.

We light the candle of peace.

We light the candle of joy.

We light the candle of love.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

All:

**Christ, the Light, is born. Let us sing to the Lord a new song!**

### +PROCESSIONAL HYMN #246

"Joy to the World" Antioch

### +OPENING PRAYER

Living God, on this holy night we gather – to stand with the shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

### MESSAGE IN SONG

Still, Still, Still Jackie Allen, Soloist  
arr. Philip Ledger

## Proclamation

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9: 2-7 Pew Bible OT Page 600  
The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

### + GRADUAL HYMN #251

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain" vs. 1 & 2 Go Tell It

### +GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2: 1-14 Pew Bible NT Page 54-55  
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 our church, our faith, and our lives.

### + GRADUAL HYMN #251

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain" vs. 3 Go Tell It

### HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

## Response

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Thank you for offering your gifts to the ministry of the Lighthouse Church. Tonight's offering will benefit the Samaritan Fund.

### OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. Mark Hayes/Douglas E. Wagner

### +DOXOLOGY #238

Angels We Have Heard on High vs. 1 Gloria

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### COMMUNION MEDITATION

## Thanksgiving and Communion

The United Methodist Church is an open communion. All are invited to partake regardless of denomination or religious affiliation. At the direction of the ushers, please come forward and kneel or stand if you are able. The servers will offer you a small piece of bread and a small cup. First partake of the bread, then the cup. Gluten free bread is available by noting this need to the servers at the alter.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR CHRISTMAS #12

### 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

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230 St. Louis  
"Away in a Manger" #217 Away in a Manger  
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #229 W. Zlobie Lezy

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

## Sending Forth

### +CLOSING HYMN #239

"Silent Night, Holy Night" Stille Nacht

### +LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

As Silent Night is being sung, the lights will be dimmed and the light from the Christ Candle will be shared throughout the congregation. Please hold the lighted candle upright. Please tip the unlighted candle to be lit. Following the service please place the candles in the narthex.

### +BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams  
When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.

~Howard Thurman

In the Name of Jesus, the Christ-child, go into all the world.  
Amen.

## 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 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
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Methodist Church. We are honored that you are here. A cry room with sound feed 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 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



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

**Ushers:** Elsa & Peter Soderberg

**Liturgist:** The Rev. Ted Senior



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941-964-2479

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



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Carol Elwood, Choir Director

Al Nethery, Accompanist

Cindy Crespo, Sexton

Gabriela Crespo, Nursery Attendant



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

December 24, 2019

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION



Christmas is the festival at which Christians celebrate the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. This fragile infant, long awaited and yet still a surprise, is the incarnation of God on earth. As we share gifts with our friends and families this season, we seek to capture the joy and wonder of the original gift of Christmas: God, out of his lavish abundance, comes into a broken world to dwell among us and draw us to him.