

# Service of Worship

8:30 AM & 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

**PRELUDE** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Traditional French carol, arr. Lani Smith

*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 Cataldo Family (8:30 AM)  
The Probst Family (10:30 AM)

### Reader 1:

A reading from Isaiah Chapter 60:  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.

### Reader 2:

Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

### Reader 3:

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our  
Hope. May the light sent from God shine in  
the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

**ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

**CENTERING** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Philip Eyrich

**+OPENING PRAYER**

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

God of power unexpected, we want you to  
tear open the heavens and come down; to  
make mountains quake, water boil, and stars  
to fall until all nations tremble at your pres-  
ence! But you, you will not perform according  
to our wants and whims. Instead you come  
like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet.

Instead you are born among us as an infant.  
Instead you show us how love is made perfect  
in weakness. So we will stay alert, or at least  
we will try, because we are your people and  
there is no other God besides you. **Amen**

**+THE GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, World without end.  
Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kathy Peters  
Coordinator of Family Ministries

**WORSHIP IN MUSIC**

"Open Our Eyes" with "Be Though My Vision"  
Robert Cull, traditional Irish melody, arr. Mark Hayes  
(Philip Eyrich, piano)

## Proclamation

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (In unison)

**Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass  
away, but your words will not pass away:  
Your Word stands forever. May our genera-  
tion be attentive so that, by the power of your  
Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and  
gladly do right, meeting you wherever  
and whenever you appear. In Christ's  
name we pray. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 64:1-9  
The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 13:24-37  
The Word of God for the people of God  
**Thanks be to God**

**HOMILY**

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION** *The Power of Your Love*

arr. Victor Labenske

## Response

**PRAYERS AND PRAISES**

**HYMN OF ADORATION**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (VS4)*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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 tres-  
passes, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the king-  
dom, and the power, and the glory, forever  
and ever. Amen.**

## Sending Forth

**+BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

Beware. Keep alert. Keep awake. God is  
doing awesome things we do not expect  
and Christ is coming near with great power  
and glory, and with tenderness.

May God strengthen us to the end; Christ  
draw near to our very gates; and the Holy  
Spirit awaken our spirits; until, with eager  
longing, we greet the day of our Lord Jesus  
Christ.

**POSTLUDE** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Traditional 17th Century Swedish melody, arr. David Paxton

**Today's altar flowers are given by Curt and Sara  
Moll in honor of their 57th wedding anniversary.**

**Thank you for your ongoing investment in the life  
and ministry of Lighthouse United Methodist Church  
of Boca Grande.  
An offering basket is located at the entrance  
of the Sanctuary.**

## 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

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Requested by

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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

### Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group will be meeting every Thursday at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, except on holidays.

### UMW News

The UMW November and December gatherings have been cancelled. The UMW Board will be meeting soon to determine how to proceed in the new year. Stay tuned!

### Sanctuary Flowers

To beautify the Sanctuary, you are invited to place flowers in the chancel for Sunday Services. The total for two arrangements is \$75.00. To place flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please see the form in the weekly newsletter or contact the office at info@bglighthouseumc.com.

### 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.bglighthouseumc.com or contact the church office at info@bglighthouseumc.com.

### Shoebox Gifts for Kids' Needs of Englewood

Thank to everyone who has picked up shoeboxes for Kids' Needs of Englewood. We're approaching the final week of this campaign and there are a few boxes left in the Fellowship Hall. If you have not done so already, please take a box or two on leaving the church. If you prefer to just make a donation, please write the check to Kids' Needs of Englewood and Becca deRosa will fill the boxes for you. Boxes will be distributed for Christmas in early December. Contact Jean Steinman or Becca deRosa for more information.

### Kaisers/Harry Chapin Food Bank Gift Matching Update

Thank you to your generosity, our \$10,000 matching gift goal was reached on Monday, November 23. Including the initial \$10,000 pledged by our anonymous donor, a total of \$20,000 will be donated to Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida to support the fight to end hunger and in honor of Nick and Helen Kaiser.

### Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM—Interactive Family Service

7:00 PM —Candlelight and Holy Communion

# Serving Today.

Liturgists: Peter Soderberg (8:30 AM) and Ed Paxton(10 AM)

## Contact Us

PO Box 524, Boca Grande, FL 33921  
941-964-2479

www.bglighthouseumc.com  
info@bglighthouseumc.com

www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

## Contacts

**The Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor**  
mwilliams@bglighthouseumc.com

**Rich Steinhelper, Minister of Pastoral Care**  
rsteinhelper@bglighthouseumc.com

**Kathy Peters, Coordinator of Family Ministries**  
kpeters@bglighthouseumc.com

**Hermila Perreault, Administrative Assistant**  
hperreault@bglighthouseumc.com

**Cindy Handrick, Financial Assistant**  
chandrick@bglighthouseumc.com

**David Hamblin, Director of Music**  
dhamblin@bglighthouseumc.com

**Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist**  
pjmusic89@gmail.com

**Mike Hilton, Audio/Video Technician**  
mhilton@bglighthouseumc.com

**Cindy Crespo, Sexton**

**Gabriela Crespo, Nursery Attendant**

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness  
Our gifts as of November 23, 2020

OPERATING BUDGET.....\$643,000.00

OFFERING.....\$485,941.00

#### OUR COLLECTIVE GIVING

YEAR-TO-DATE TO LOCAL AND

GLOBAL MISSIONS.....\$352,424.00

Coming from:

DIRECT SPONSORED MISSION

GIVING FROM THE CHURCH BUDGET..... \$89,140.00  
(18% OF CHURCH SPENDING TO DATE)

Plus: UMW STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

SPONSORED MISSIONS.....\$70,000.00

Plus: DIRECT INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONAL

PASS-THROUGHS TO OUR MISSIONS.....\$193,284.00



**LIGHTHOUSE**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
of  
**BOCA GRANDE**

## November 29, 2020

### The First Sunday of Advent

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



Today we enter the season of Advent and the beginning of the church's liturgical year. Advent is the time we anticipate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, both as the incarnate Christ-child and his future coming to reign in glory in the consummated Kingdom of God. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus teaches about the fearsome majesty of his second coming, urging us to remain watchful, so that "when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near."