Entrance

Gathering

*Call to Worship

Life can sometimes be very difficult.

We look around and wonder where God is.

In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

God surrounds us with love and courage.

Come, let us praise God for God's abiding presence.

Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don't recognize your loving presence.

*Opening Prayer

We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me – Hymn 361

Proclamation and Response

Prayer of Illumination

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading – *Matthew 16:13-23* Charlie Routh

Sermon Built into a Spiritual House Mark Gustafson

*Apostles' Creed

Page 881

Pastoral Prayer

Confession and Pardon

Page 12

*Gloria Patri

Page 70

*Passing the Peace

Offering / Standing on the Promises

UMCers

*Doxology

Page 95

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Pages 13-15

*Hymn

To God Be the Glory – Hymn 98

Sending Forth

*Benediction / Going Forth

Happy Birthday to Donna Melvin (3/4), Charlotte Hester (3/4), Blaire Nance (3/6), Doug Varley (3/7), Tommy Fowler (3/7), and Mindy Wilder (3/7)!

The cover art is given to the glory of God by Tori Allen.

We pray today for Gloria Brunson, Alfreda Bryant, Carolyn Carter, Saundra Moore, and Janett Nunez-Meza at Elizabethtown Primary School.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mindy Wilder's birthday by Tiffany Wilder.

Rev. Mark Gustafson, Pastor 919-931-9783

Randy Page, Accompanist 910-876-1075

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Announcements

Elizabethtown Community Lenten Services: (all at noon)

March 6: Trinity. Jason Williams preaching.

March 13: First Baptist. Corey Lyons preaching.

March 20: Foundation. Rudy Ramphal preaching.

Please plan to participate in our Lent study, which will be on **Simon-Peter** by Adam Hamilton. We meet on Monday nights, 7 p.m. at Bethlehem and on zoom to discuss. Feel free to join, even if you have not read the book!

Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas AME Zion Church, Daryl Strickland will be performing magic for the first time since his stroke. Come support him!

March 6, 12 p.m. at Bethlehem: Senior Saints!

March 7, 11 a.m. at Etown Library: Compassionate Care Meeting.

March 18, 7 a.m. Operation Inasmuch serving volunteers needed.

March 20, 6:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday at Bethlehem.

Holy Week Schedule:

March 28: Maundy Thursday service at Live Oak, 6:30 p.m.

March 29: Good Friday service at St. Christopher's, 7 p.m.

March 31: Easter Sunrise service at the Farmer's Market, 7 a.m.

Easter morning services per usual Sunday schedule.

The BLOG (Bethlehem /Live Oak/ Grace) Prayer List:

Mentioned 2/4/2024: Johnny Dowless; Earl Coble; Rodney Hester; West Coast flooding; Stella Batton; Jan Evans; Joyce Strickland; Betty Joyce Blackman; Mordekai Barfield; the family and friends of Rodney Lancaster.

Mentioned 2/11/2024: Gene Woltman; Mary Cain; Jacob Chavis; Linda Schaeffer; Debbie Johnson; Darby Bordeaux; Annette Meares; Andrea

Schaeffer; Debbie Johnson; Darby Bordeaux; Annette Meares; Andrea Simpson; all those affected by the UNC-P shootings; Keith John; Jeremy McLean.

Mantioned 2/18/2024: Fragmen Toylor and family: Lib Sessense: Lorre

Mentioned 2/18/2024: Freeman Taylor and family; Lib Sessoms; Larry Feight; Bernice Herring; Francis Ogden; Ronnie Canady; Henrietta Martin; Chicky and Janice Robbins; Terry & Karen McPhail; Sylvia Wilson and family; Cole Fisher; Joan Hester, and Florine Harolle.

Mentioned 2/25/2024: People of Ukraine; Jane Lomax; Kathy Lee; Warren Hill; the family and friends of Jim Knotts,

Prayers this week: Tori Allen; Joy Grady and family; Matthew Krause; Harold Sasser; Steve and Debbie Dunham; Beth Nance; Billy & Stella Cain; the family and friends of Ray Beasley.

Grace United Methodist Church

March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday in Lent Worship Service 8:30 am

Our Mission

To become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision
We welcome everyone into the experience
of a different story!

