

Entrance

Gathering

*Call to Worship

O Lord, we come to praise you and follow you!

We are faithful and would never deny you.

Yet, when our faith is put to the test, our courage may wane.

Even when others fall away, we never will.

Jesus warns us that before the cock crowed, even Peter would disown him three times.

Perhaps we, too, would deny you if the circumstances were similar.

Lord, we want to believe in you, always. Help our unbelief.

*Opening Prayer

We thank you, O Lord, for your servant Simon-Peter. We know that he followed you to the best of his ability and yet still found his faith weak during times of trial. We can relate. We want to be faithful and yet there are times when we, too, are weak. Help us. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us. Give us the strength to always follow you. Give us your grace and forgiveness when we fall. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates – Hymn 213*

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 26:31-35, 69-75*

Leslie Sinclair

Sermon

In Denial

Mark Gustafson

***Prayer of Confession and Pardon**

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***Gloria Patri**

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***Passing the Peace**

Offering / *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

UMCers

***Doxology**

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Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn**

Trust and Obey – Hymn 467

Sending Forth

***Benediction / Going Forth**

Happy Birthday to Wendy Sholar (3/14)!

The cover photo was taken in the Holy Land by Pastor Mark.

We pray today for Brenda Benson, Tonya Bryan, and Holly Clegg at Elizabethtown Primary School.

You may sign up to give flowers by contacting Pastor Mark or by filling out our online sign-up Google Doc.

**Rev. Mark Gustafson, Pastor
919-931-9783**

**Randy Page, Accompanist
910-876-1075**

Announcements

Elizabethtown Community Lenten Services: (all at noon)

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!

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

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

March 21, 7 p.m. Building Committee Meeting at the Library.

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 2/11/2024: Gene Woltman; Mary Cain; Jacob Chavis; Linda Schaeffer; Debbie Johnson; Darby Bordeaux; Annette Meares; Andrea Simpson; Keith John; Jeremy McLean.

Mentioned 2/18/2024: Freeman Taylor and family; 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; Kathy Lee; Warren Hill; the family and friends of Jim Knotts.

Mentioned 3/3/2024: Cindy Coble's coworkers; Durham Pate; all those affected by the UNC-P shootings; the family and friends of Ray Beasley, Jane Lomax, Jimmy Edwards; and Larry Feight.

Prayers this week: Lib Sessoms; Tori Allen; Joy Grady and family; Matthew Krause; Harold Sasser; Steve and Debbie Dunham; Beth Nance; Billy & Stella Cain.

Grace United Methodist Church

March 10, 2024

**4th 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!*

