

Entrance

Gathering

Choral Introit – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

UMCers

*Call to Worship

O Come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant!
O Come ye, O Come ye
to Bethlehem!
Come, Let us adore Him!
Let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

*Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful – Hymn 234*

*Opening Prayer

O Lord, every day, we contemplate the holy mystery that surrounds you and your Son, Jesus Christ. During Christmas, we celebrate your hope that came to earth through the baby Jesus, lying in a manger. And yet, we still struggle with our hope. For we hope for what we do not yet have. Calm our fears for today's troubles and strengthen our hope in your future. Amen.

*Hymn *Away In A Manger – Hymn 217*

Proclamation and Response

Prayer of Illumination

Like the sun that is far away and yet close at hand to warm us, so God's Spirit is ever present and around us. Come Creator into our lives. We live and move and have our very being in you. Open now the windows of our souls. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading – *Luke 2:1-20*

Renee Summerlin

Sermon

Love Came Down

Mark Gustafson

*Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High - Hymn 238*

*Passing the Peace

* Offering / *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming* UMCers

*Doxology *Page 95*

Announcements / Presentation!

*Hymn *Joy to the World – Hymn 246*

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn *Go Tell It on the Mountain – Hymn 251*

Sending Forth

*Benediction / Going Forth

Happy Birthday to Wally Bengtson (7/24)!

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

The flower sign-up sheet has plenty of openings! You many 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:

The Trustees and the Building Committee are gathering more information about the future of our building project by visiting other churches to get ideas. If you have an idea of a church we should visit, please talk with Cathy Kinlaw or Mary Greene.

Our Apple Tree continues! We have 10 teachers to bless, 3 affiliated with Grace, 4 from Bethlehem, and 3 from Live Oak. Please consider getting some apples, purchasing the gifts, and returning them unwrapped asap. We are giving Mindy Wilder her gifts today, as she prepares to return to Emereau.

T-Shirts! We have a design chosen and are waiting for direction on how to start taking orders!

Church Directory: <https://liveoak.ctrn.co/directory/index.php> You may go to this link. Your username is [first name][last name]. Your initial password is 123456. Once logged in, you may change your password. Any troubles with this, contact Renee Summerlin or Janelle Rose. Pat Routh is willing to take pictures for the directory at your convenience. Once everyone has pictures in the directory, we will begin making paper copies available for those who would like one and/or cannot see it online.

BCC's Back to School Blast is August 10, 8a-12p. FYI. We are planning to support this with a booth. Please contact Robin Summerlin and/or Tiina Mundy to support this effort!

Pastor Mark is going on vacation July 22 – August 2. Rev Francis Daniel will preach on July 28 while I'm away!

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

Mentioned 6/23/2024: Malia Smiling and family; Safety for all workers at Cindy Coble's workplace and everywhere; the family and friends of Beth Nance and Kristen Beard.

Mentioned 6/30/2024: Rebekah Dixon and her 3 girls; a coworker of Hannah Martin's.

Mentioned 7/7/2024: Ray Coleson; Julie Smith; Ruth Feight; Lisa McLean; David Torres; Randy Stamps; Hazel Autry; Pete Kinlaw; the family and friends of Herbert Bernard "Baldie" McKoy.

Mentioned 7/14/2024: all those battling the heat this summer, including bracing for/cleaning up from hurricanes; Karyn Wiseman; Kathy Lee; Billy & Stella Cain; the family and friends of Adele Clark, Randy Hood, and Melanie Jones.

Prayers this week: Alb Inman; Roma Askea and her daughter, Vicky; Alvin Dickerson; Matthew Krause; Joy Grady and family; Linda Schaeffer; Harold Sasser.

Grace United Methodist Church

July 21, 2024

**9th Sunday after Pentecost
Christmas in July!**

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!*

