

## Entrance

### Gathering / Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

God knows each one of us personally and God loves each one of us.

**Thanks be to God for such wondrous love!**

Come this day into the presence of God.

**We come with overflowing hearts!**

Celebrate God's mercy and compassion.

**Praise be to God who offers us hope.**

#### \*Opening Prayer

Awesome God, you knew us before we were born. You love us into life. Open our hearts and our spirits today to hear your word for us. And, upon hearing the word, may we be convinced of our call to ministry and mission through the church. Bless us with your presence and your powerful love, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

\*Hymn                      *Lead On, O King Eternal – Hymn 580*

### Proclamation and Response

#### Prayer of Illumination

O Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here, so that we may all hear with joy what you have to say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading – *Revelation 1:4-8*                      Renee Horton

Sermon                      *Priests*                      Mark Gustafson

\*The Apostles' Creed                      *Page 881*

\*Gloria Patri                      *Page 70*

\*Passing the Peace

\* Offering / *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty UMCers*

\*Doxology                      *Page 95*

### Announcements, Joys and Concerns

#### Pastoral Prayer

\*Hymn                      *Precious Name – Hymn 536*

### Sending Forth

\*Benediction / Going Forth

Happy Birthday to Kevin Dunham (1/16), Debbie Dunham (1/18), Tiffany Wilder (1/18), and Lisa O'Donnell (1/20)!

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

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Tripp, Scout, and Kate's birthdays by the Lancasters.

Rev. Mark Gustafson, Pastor  
919-931-9783

Randy Page, Accompanist  
910-876-1075

## Announcements:

We are doing a mini-series on Revelation between now and the beginning of Lent. You are invited to read the book at your leisure!

Administrative Council Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 7 p.m. at the library.

Super Sandwich Saturday: January 20. See Patty Scotten for details.

Saturday, February 10, 5-8 pm: Pastalini's Italian Restaurant at Live Oak. We will need volunteers and donations. Come and eat as well – live music with Howard Faircloth!

Please let Mark know if you're interested in doing a Lent study, probably on Monday nights during Lent. If so, what study by Adam Hamilton would you like to study? Choices include: ***24 Hours that Changed the World, John, The Walk, Simon-Peter***. As before, I will preach from the study as well during Lent!

Note: We are working on increasing our online visibility. Anytime you see any posts from our church, please like, comment and/or share. It helps! Thank you!

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

*Mentioned 12/10/2023:* Matthew Compton (Diane Bush's nephew); Janice Robbins; Annette Meares; Cody & Stephanie Puzinski and their premature twins; Rachel Butler; Beverly Norris; Julie Smith; Kathy LaMaster's Rachel; Pat Strickland and family; Karen Valenzuela; Remy Jacobs; Mary Cain's mother; the family and friends of Sue Grissom, Kelly Jarvis, Danny McLaurin.

*Mentioned 12/17/2023:* Linda Shaeffer; Tori Allen; an anonymous family member of the Dowless family; Paul Russ; Tammy Jackson; Delana Faircloth; Betty Joyce Blackman; the family and friends of Nick Tyner, William "Bill" G. Howell, Dillon Raymes.

*Mentioned 12/24/2023:* Kenny Inman.

*Mentioned 12/31/2023:* Laura Gustafson, all those sick during these winter months.

*Mentioned 1/7/2024:* Those affected by the school shooting in Perry, Iowa; Those affected by the earthquake in Japan; Melanie Wohlford, Barry Wohlford, Cathy Butler and Annette Meares; Wanda Stone; Julie Smith.

*Prayers this week:* Chicky and Janice Robbins; Joy Grady and family; Freeman Taylor and family; Terry & Karen McPhail; Matthew Krause; Jacob Chavis; Cole Fisher; Harold Sasser; Billy & Stella Cain.

# *Grace United Methodist Church*

## **January 14, 2024**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**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!*

