

## Entrance

### Gathering

### Lighting of the Advent Candle The Dowless and Natale's

Glory to God who strengthens us with Christ's presence, who announces the secret that was kept quiet for a long time.

**The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!**

Christ is coming, God with us. God is eternal, and God is faithful.

**The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!**

We light the candle of peace, rejoicing in God's presence. Glory to God, who alone is wise. Glory to God, who is coming down to us!

**The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!**

### \*Opening Prayer

O Lord, today we come to worship hardly able to contain our excitement! We come to celebrate you and your gift for us, your son Jesus Christ. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we rejoice in your presence among us – not only in the form of a holy newborn, but in the form of your Holy Spirit, who surrounds us, comforts us, and guides us every day of the year. We can't help but have our joy burst forth. In Jesus' Name we celebrate, Amen.

\*Hymn *Rejoice, the Lord Is King – Hymn 715*

### Prayer of Illumination

Come, divine Interpreter, bring me eyes thy book to read, ears the mystic words to hear, words which did from thee proceed, words that endless bliss impart, kept in an obedient heart. Amen.

Scripture Reading – *Luke 1:26-46* **Patty Scotten**

Sermon *Rejoice!* **Mark Gustafson**

\*Canticle of Mary (*Magnificat*) **Page 199**

\*Gloria Patri **Page 70**

\*Passing the Peace

\* Offering / *Angels We Have Heard on High* **UMCers**

\*Doxology **Page 95**

### Announcements, Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer

\*Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice – Hymn 224*

\*Benediction / Going Forth

Happy Birthday to Brenda Inman (12/22) and Danielle Hester (12/23)!

Happy Anniversary to Warren & Amber Sholar (12/18) and Gordon & Shantell Faircloth (12/21)!

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

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of all the members of Grace United Methodist Church by **Gary and Joy Grady**.

Rev. Mark Gustafson, Pastor  
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Randy Page, Accompanist  
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## **Announcements:**

Bell Choir practice: This Tuesday, 6 p.m. at Bethlehem.

Community Advent Service: 12 p.m. Dec 20, at Elizabethtown Presbyterian, Mark Gustafson and Matt Thorley preaching.

The Book Study and on Will Willimon's book "Heaven and Earth" continues this Thursday night, 12/21, 7 p.m. at Bethlehem and on Zoom.

December 22, 4 p.m. – meet at Live Oak: Christmas Caroling!

December 24 – Bring your REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR Baskets!!... to any Christmas Eve Service, morning or night. All donations will be donated to Live Oak's Food Pantry. I TRIPLE-DOG DARE YOU!!

From the Food Committee: If you are out of town on Christmas Eve, we will accept your Reverse Advent Calendar food donations for Live Oak's Food Pantry on January 7 as well. Merry Christmas!!

December 24, 6 p.m. at Bethlehem: Christmas Eve Service!

December 31, 4 p.m. at Live Oak: New Year's Eve Party.

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 11/19/2023:* Safe travel mercies; Cathy Butler; Hunt Cole; Richie Priest; Anita Copeland; Alby Inman; Tryon Lancaster; Jimmy Rice's sister; Hooker McDonald; Elbert Watson; the family and friends of Serenity Henry, Cletus E. Dowless, Boyce Meares.

*Mentioned 11/26/2023:* Ivy Robbins; Camden Autry; Nancy Smith; a family involved in a car accident (per Cindy Coble); the family and friends of Sandy Inman.

*Mentioned 12/3/2023:* Henrietta Martin; James East; Wanda Stone; Kathy Lee; a friend of Cindy Coble who lost her father; Sharon Elkins; Randy Jones.

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

*Prayers this week:* Linda Shaeffer; Tori Allen; Kenny Inman; Joy Grady and family; Freeman Taylor and family; Terry & Karen McPhail; Matthew Krause; Jacob Chavis; Harold Sasser; Billy & Stella Cain; the family and friends of Nick Tyner.

# *Grace United Methodist Church*

**December 17, 2023**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
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!*

