

# EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 (302) 227-7743 ☪ [www.Epworth.Faith](http://www.Epworth.Faith)

VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community

MISSION: Inviting, Belonging, Connecting, Caring

Worship Celebration: December 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. Unified Worship

EPWORTH: *a United Methodist Church*

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year A)

☪ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☪

HE HAS COME FOR US<sup>1</sup>

Praise Team

God rest ye merry, gentle folk, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.  
O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.  
O, tidings of comfort and joy.

He has come for us, this Jesus. He's the hope for humankind.  
He has come for us, the Messiah, born to give us life.

From God, Creator of us all, a blessed angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.  
O, tidings of comfort and joy. *{Repeat Chorus}*

B: All the angels sing, "Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is born!"  
All the children sing, "Hallelujah! He is Christ the Lord!" *{Repeat Chorus & Bridge}*

Welcome & Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

L: This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – the Sunday of Joy. Joy is found in the presence of God  
who is here among us, who lives in us, surrounds us, and holds us in their hand.

P: We embrace God's presence here, at this moment, in this place.

L: Joy is found when God brings people together that need each other, when words are spoken  
that are deeper than life.

P: We embrace the wisdom of the people God has placed among us.

L: Joy is found when bad suspicions remain unfulfilled, when life is born where death reigned,  
when joy overcomes fear.

P: We embrace the One who brings life.

L: Joy is found when people find God and find themselves in God.

ALL: Creator, speak to this unified and joyful gathering of believers! Amen.

## Opening Hymn

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT<sup>2</sup>

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In Jesus there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *{Refrain}*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *{Refrain}*

Morning Prayer

Mickie McManamon, Coordinator of Caring Ministries

Prayer Response

COME, EMMANUEL <sup>3</sup>

Once mercy found us, still You astound us, hold and surround us, Emmanuel.  
Living inside us, faithful to guide us, cover and hide us, Emmanuel.  
Come, Emmanuel; come, Emmanuel.  
Come, Emmanuel; come, Emmanuel.

Kid's Time

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

☞ WE ENGAGE THE WORD ☞

Hymn of Preparation

TELL JOHN HIS PROPHECY WAS TRUE

Tell John his prophecy was true the desert will rejoice,  
the wilderness burst forth in bloom and shout with joyful voice:  
"Behold the Lamb of God today, who takes our sins away!"

When Christ has come, the blind will see and all the sick be healed.  
The deaf will hear; the dead be raised; good news will be revealed.  
To these the kingdom will be giv'n, for they are born of heav'n.

Christ comes to each of us today who hear his holy Word  
to straighten out our crooked ways, so we can be prepared  
to live with Him in righteousness and perfect blessedness.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

Aleta Thompson, lector

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at?

A reed shaken by the wind?

What, then, did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in soft robes?

Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

What, then, did you go out to see?

A prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

May this scripture inspire us all...

§ to walk in the way that leads to life.

A CHRISTMAS HALLELUJAH <sup>4</sup>

A couple came to Bethlehem, expecting child, they search the inn,  
to find a place for You were coming soon.

There was no room for them to stay, so in a manger filled with hay  
God's only Son was born, Oh, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelu---jah.

The shepherds left their flocks by night to see this baby wrapped in light,  
a host of angels led them all to You.

It was just as the angels said, "You'll find Him in a manger bed!  
Emmanuel and Savior, Hallelujah!" {Repeat Refrain}

I know you came to rescue me, this baby boy would grow to be  
a man and one day die for me and you.

My sins would drive the nails in You that rugged cross was my cross too,

still ev'ry breath You drew was Hallelujah. {Refrain 2x}

We Pray for Our Pastor

Aleta Thompson

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

☞ RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS ☞

Introduction

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Lay Leader: I now present these persons today for reception into Epworth

Mike Tyler

New Members:

Teresa Cason

Kathy Waterson & Roni Fiehler

Mickey Hoffman

Mark Stanzilis

Carol Lorenzo

Adam Emel-Firestone

Rowan Emel-Firestone

Brydon Emel-Firestone

Xander Emel-Firestone

Quinn Emel-Firestone

*To the new members*

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask:

Pastors

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness

reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

§ I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice,  
and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

§ I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,  
put your whole trust in His grace,  
and promise to serve Him as our Lord,  
in union with the Church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

§ I do.

According to the grace given to you,  
Will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

§ I will.

*To the congregation*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin  
and your commitment to Christ?

§ We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons  
now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will  
surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in their trust of God and  
be found faithful in their service to others.

We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*To the new members*

Mike

As a member of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal  
to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

§ I will.

As a member of Epworth, will you faithfully participate in its ministries  
by your prayers, your presence, your witness, your gifts, your service, and your witness?  
\$ I will.

**A Song of Welcome** WELCOME (*Let's Walk Together*)<sup>5</sup>  
Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin  
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,  
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace.  
Singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome, the love of God to share, 'cause all of us are welcome here;  
all are welcome to this place.

**☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☛**

**Sharing Our Gifts** Offerings are given through check, on-line giving, & Texting at 302-488-0038 Pastor Bo  
Bless your heart for supporting our ministries!

**Offertory:** ADVENT CELEBRATION<sup>6</sup> Chancel Choir

**Prayers of Response** Gwen Osborne, Certified Lay Minister

**The Lord's Prayer** Sung Responsively

**☞ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ☛**

**Benediction** Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

**Sending Forth** ADORE<sup>7</sup>  
You stepped down from heaven. Humbly, You came. God of all creation here with us.  
In a starlit manger, Emmanuel, Light of the World here to save.  
Adore, come let us adore, O come, let us adore Him!  
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.

Wise men bring their treasures, shepherds bow low, angel voices sing of peace on earth.  
What have I to offer to heaven's King? I will bring my life, my love, my all. {Refrain}

BRIDGE: Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening. At Your feet, we fall. {repeat Bridge - Refrain}



Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and sponsored by Epworth.

Stephen Ministers, wearing blue name badges, will be at each service if anyone in the Epworth family wants to talk about any life challenges.

The special Peace Candle on the Chancel shines to remind us of God's desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God's peacemakers.

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**Ministers:** The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Mike Tyler  
*Lead Pastor:* Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith ... *Pastor of Community & Communications:* Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith  
*Minister of Music:* Doug Yetter ... *Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon  
*Coordinator of Belonging Ministries:* Gwen Osborne ... *Director of Youth Services:* Joy Gordy-Stith  
*Office Manager:* Darlene Ford ... *Special Projects:* Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Barbara Kurtz  
*Lead Interpreter:* Sandy Davis ... *Sound Tech:* Shaun Redick ... *Video Production:* Thomas Vyas  
*Preschool Director:* Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford ... *Kitchen Sexton:* Kara Wilson  
*Facilities Manager:* John Hilt ... *Custodian:* Wanda Hudson ... *Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson

### Worship Resources

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<sup>1</sup> *He Has Come for Us:* Jason Ingram & Meredith Andrews ©2010 Sony / ATV Music Publishing

<sup>2</sup> *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light:* Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

<sup>3</sup> *Come, Emmanuel:* Twila Paris, 2003

<sup>4</sup> *Hallelujah Christmas:* Leonard Cohen ©1995 Sony / ATV Music

<sup>5</sup> *Welcome:* Laurie Zelman & Mark Miller; Abingdon Press ©2007

<sup>6</sup> *Advent Celebration:* Joseph M. Martin ©2006

<sup>7</sup> *Adore:* Graham Kendrick & Martin Chalk ©2015 sixsteps songs