



EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

Worship Order, Announcements & Prayers

Epworth.faith

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Preparing the Earth (Advent-Christmas)

December 10,
2023

Rooting Out Inequity

Isaiah
40:1-11



Welcome to Epworth Worship
Sunday 10 am
in-person and online

10 am [Blended Worship Order](#)
[Calendar](#) & [Announcements](#)
[Prayer List](#)
[Staff & Leadership](#)

*VISION: Explore Faith,
Embrace Community*

*MISSION: Inviting, Belonging,
Connecting, Caring*

All Means All

As a [Reconciling Ministries Network](#) congregation, we welcome all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, to share their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.



19285 Holland Glade Rd.
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
302-227-7743 Epworth.faith



We Gather in Worship *Doug Yetter, organ*

He Has Come for Us

Jason Ingram & Meredith Andrews ©2010 Sony/ATV

Praise Team

God rest ye merry, gentlefolk,
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.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy.

Oh, 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.

Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and
joy.

Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

{Repeat Chorus}

All the angels sing,

“Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is born!”

All the children sing,

“Hallelujah! He is Christ the Lord!”

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.*

All the angels sing, “Hallelujah!

Jesus Christ is born!”

All the children sing,

“Hallelujah! He is Christ the Lord!”

Light of the World

Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, & Paul Mabury ©2012 Sony/ATV

Praise Team

The world waits for a miracle,
the heart longs for a little bit of hope,
O come, o come, Emmanuel.

A child prays for peace on earth,
and she's callin' out from a sea of hurt,
O come, o come, Emmanuel.

And can you hear the angels singing...

Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.

Glo-o-ry the light of the world is here.

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother,
a baby's cry is the sound of love,
come down, come down, Emmanuel.

He is the song for the suffering,
He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace has come,
He has come, Emmanuel, oh...

{Repeat Chorus Twice}

For all who wait, for all who hunger,
for all who've prayed, for all who wonder.
Behold your King, behold Messiah,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.

Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.

Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.

Behold your King, behold Messiah,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

The world waits for a miracle,
the heart longs for a little bit of hope,
O come, o come, Emmanuel.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

H. W. Longfellow / Casting Crowns ©2008 My Refuge Music

I heard the bells on Christmas day,
their old familiar carols play.
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
of peace on earth, goodwill to all.

And the bells are ringing, "Peace on earth!"

*Like a choir they're singing, "Peace on
earth!"*

In my heart I hear them,

"Peace on earth, goodwill to all."

And in despair I bowed my head.
"There is no peace on earth," I said.
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
of peace on earth, goodwill to all.

But the bells are ringing, "Peace on earth!"

*Like a choir they're singing, "Peace on
earth!"*

Does anybody hear them?

"Peace on earth, goodwill to all."

Then rang the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor does God sleep."
[peace on earth, peace on earth.]
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
with peace on earth, goodwill to all!"

Then ringing, singing on its way,
the world revolved from night to day.

A voice, a chime, a chance sublime
of peace on earth, goodwill to all.

*And the bells, they're ringing, "Peace on
earth!"*

Like a choir they're singing, "Peace on earth!"

*And with our hearts we'll hear them,
"Peace, peace on earth, goodwill to all."*

*Do you hear the bells, they're ringing,
"Peace on earth!"*

Like the angels singing! "Peace on earth!"

*Open up your hearts and hear them,
"Peace, peace on earth, goodwill to all."*

Peace on earth, peace on earth.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all."

Lighting the Advent Candle

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Making Way for Peace: This morning we light the second Advent candle—the candle that traditionally stands for peace. We ache for peace. Peace in our world. Peace our family. Peace in our hearts. And yet, there seems to be so much that stands in the way of that peace.

We know that peace will not happen accidentally. It must be an investment and worked towards intentionally. Barriers that stand in the way of peace must be systematically deconstructed to pave the way for a peace that lasts, a peace with justice.

The ancient teachings of our faith recognize that the way must be prepared. The playing field must be leveled. And it all starts with a brave voice. A voice willing to cry out even in the midst of the wilderness.

This morning we light this tenacious flame as we commit to the work ahead, trusting that with God's help we might make a way. A way for peace.

Come, Emmanuel

**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

Pastor Vicki

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

God Almighty, We Are Waiting

E. Ann Bell, 2005 / Rowland H. Pritchard,
1906

**God Almighty, we are waiting
for a Savior to appear.**

**Meet us in our desert journey
give a sign that you are near:
burning bushes, parted waters,
food aplenty in the wild.**

As we look for signs and wonders,

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

help us see you in a child.

God Incarnate, we are waiting
for the feast day of Your birth.
Looking back and looking forward
to the Christ's return to earth.
Help us to proclaim the gospel,
'til the world is reconciled.
Let us set Your holy table
for each woman, man, and child.

God the Spirit, we are waiting
for Your presence here and now.
Humbled by our sinful weakness,
at Your mercy we will bow.
Search our hearts and make us ready,
speak in language strong and mild,
help each one of us, Your people,
to receive you like a child.

Prayers of the People Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

The Lord's Prayer

Sung Responsively

Lesson: *Isaiah 40:1-11* Doro Mumford, reader

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has
served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has re-
ceived from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the
way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for
our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every moun-
tain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall be-
come level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory
of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it to-
gether, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I
cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower
of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, but the
word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of
good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem,
herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cit-
ies of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm
rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense
before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will
gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom
and gently lead the mother sheep.

May this scripture inspire us all...

§ to walk in the way that leads to life.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us.
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Lord of the nations, King of all creation,
"God with us," Emmanuel.
Lord, You are holy. Lord, You are worthy.
Come to our world with us to dwell.
Lord, of the nations, Lord of creation,
Come, now and set your people free.
Lord, Jesus come!

Born your people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Prayer

Doro Mumford

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

View the Present Through the Promise

Thomas H. Troeger, 1994 / Traditional Welsh melody

View the present through the promise,
Christ will come again.

Trust despite the deepening darkness,
Christ will come again.

Lift the world above its grieving
through Your watching and believing
in the hope past hope's conceiving:
Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise,
Christ will come again.

Let Your daily actions witness,
Christ will come again.

Let Your loving and Your giving
and Your justice and forgiving
be a sign to all the living:
Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise,
Christ will come again.

Make this hope Your guiding premise,
Christ will come again.

Pattern all Your calculating
and the world you are creating
to the advent you are waiting:
Christ will come again.

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Matt Maher, Rachel Taylor Popadic, & Chris Stevens

©2016 Meaux Mercy

**One star burns in the darkness,
shines with the promise: Emmanuel.**

**One child born in the stillness,
living within us: Emmanuel.**

*We're singing glory, glory;
let there be peace, let there be peace.*

*Singing glory, glory;
let there be peace, let it start in me.*

**One voice speaks for the voiceless,
hope for the hopeless: Emmanuel.**

**One love bring us together,
now and forever: Emmanuel. {Repeat Chorus}**

**Do not be afraid,
His love is strong enough to save us.
Nothing stands in the way,
His love is strong enough to lead us.**

{Repeat section - Repeat Chorus twice}

TAG: Let there be peace, let it start in me.

Joys and Concerns for your prayers this Week of December 10, 2024

Sympathy

To family and friends of Cass Hall, who passed away this week.

CONCERNS:

People in conflict of Israel and Gaza Strip

People of Ukraine

Deaf People of Ukraine

Steve Ackeret

Cody Arbuthnot

David Bendekovits

Cathy Benson

Jason Bezman

Brad Bingaman

Annabelle Boire

Diaz Bonville

Andy Brangenberg

The Browning Family

Diane Bruce

Tim Bush

Judy Buchanan

Fran Colavita

Miles Carhartt

Sylvia Clair

Kris Coch

Lou Ann Daniels

Max Dick

Jeanne Drake

Jennifer Eden Family

David Caffier

Sylvie Drew

Andrea Esarey

Dorothy Fedorka

Carol Fehrenbach

Darlene Ford

Marion Ford

Michael Frome

LeAnne Funk

Tom Groff

Jim Handy

Susan Hargrave

Elizabeth Hart Family

Joan Heckel

Kathy Hill

Ray Hilt

Barb Hoffman

Mickey Hoffman

Carolyn Horn

Lorraine Hudson

Deb Hunt

Carol Davis Garber

Janet Idema

Kara

Ted Kerwin

Chole Kincaid Kream

Nancy Lathbury

David & Sue Laverty
Duncan Leet
Cary Lewis
Tyler Lewis
Robert Lewis
Lorretta Mahan
Jerry Mahon
Ryan Martin
Steve Meadors
Jack Mears
Missy Mehring
Brenda Milbourne
Laura Miller
Payton Miller
Joy Mitchell
Karen Mitchell
Ann Paulen
Ron Paxton
Leslie Petty
Glenn Pierce
Bruce Powell
Annette Predeaux
Presley
Constance Quillen
Barbara Simpson
Joanne Smith
John Riley Spillane
Vernon Redding
Charlie Reynolds
Carl Richards
Beth Rinker
Betty Robbins
Sandy Roca
Pete Roche
Wilmarie Rodriguez
Sandi Russell
Dorothy & John Sadler
Irene & Tom Saffrit
Mark Saunders
Ed Scarborough
Dianne Shearon
Susan Shollenberger
Linda Simms
Henry Simpson
Michael & Anna Skiles
Fred and Sharyn Smith
Ray Sonderfan
Rob Socorso
Paul Streit
Scott Strickler
Michael Stugard
Mark Thompson
Beth Toney
Renee Tkiyhghoney
Susanne Truitt
Harvey and Peggy Waltersdorf
Amy Wall
Wanda Walton-Hummel
Tim Weschler
Michael Wills, Sr

Carol Wine
Dan Wine
Jack Witmer
Denise Wolfe
Charlotte Woods
Claire Worrall
Susan Yates
Jean Young

More Names on Back of Paper

**Continued Prayers for those in Assisted Living,
Homebound, Hospice or in Long Term Care**

Donna Blomquist, The Moorings
Ann Chambers, The Moorings
Leon Cromer, Harbor Health
Carolyn Robinson-Brandywine
Linda Rooney
Quinn Smith
Elaine Trexler

Servicemen/Women:

Michael Sakurai Wills, US Army Ft. Jackson, Alaska
Hailye Wilson, USCG Key West
Luke Wilson, USCG Key West
Zeb Wilson, Travis AFB
Jacob Hudson, Quantico
Andrew Hudson, UT ROTC
Michael Stugard -Deployed

College Students

Autumn Reynolds-Cedar Crest College
Kristina Alexander, UD
Cole Thomas Juliano, Elon
Wade Stout-
Alex Tamburello, Delaware College of Art and Design
Thomas Vyas, Delaware Tech
Griffin Barrows, Marist

Epworth Ministry Organization



Staff & Leadership

Church Office: 302-227-7743 (plus extension)

Lead Pastor: [Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith](#) (x102)

Pastor of Community & Communication:

[Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith](#) (x103)

Minister of Music: [Doug Yetter](#) (x106)

Caring Minister: [Mickie McManamon](#) (x104)

Belonging Minister: [Gwen Osborne](#) (x108)

Youth Minister: [Joy Gordy-Stith](#)

Minister to Deaf and Hard of Hearing: [Sandy Roca](#)

Preschool Director: [Betsy Plowman](#) (x107)

Administrative Assistant: (x100)

Bookkeeper: [Darlene Ford](#) (x105)

Scheduling/Rentals & DOVs: [Susan Jimenez](#)

Facilities Manager: [John Hilt](#)

Cemetery Superintendent: [Jay Stevenson](#)

Governing Board Chair—[Linda Kauffman](#)

Lay Leader—[Todd Popham](#)

Finance Chair—[David Hagelin](#)

Staff-Parish Relations Chair—[Sandy Pierce](#)

Board of Trustees Chair—[Bunny Maher](#)

Inviting Leadership Team

(Inclusive Ministries, Food Ministries, Ecumenical/Interfaith, Social Justice)

[Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith](#) and [Bob Joynson](#)

Belonging Leadership Team

(Small Groups, New Members/Belongings, Sunday School, Youth & Adult Groups)

[Gwen Osborne](#), [Linda BenderHilt](#), [Loretta Mahan](#),

[Cathie Lewis](#) and [Teri Moore](#)

Connecting Leadership Team

(Worship, Music, Arts)

[Doug Yetter](#) and [Murray Archibald](#)

Caring Leadership Team

(Missions, Pastoral Care Team, Care Ministries)

[Mickie McManamon](#), [Dee Speck](#) and [Holly Reynolds](#)

Attendance last weekend, December 3, 2023

10:00	Livestream	ASL	SS	Total
201	369	3	17	590

[Return to Table of Contents](#)