



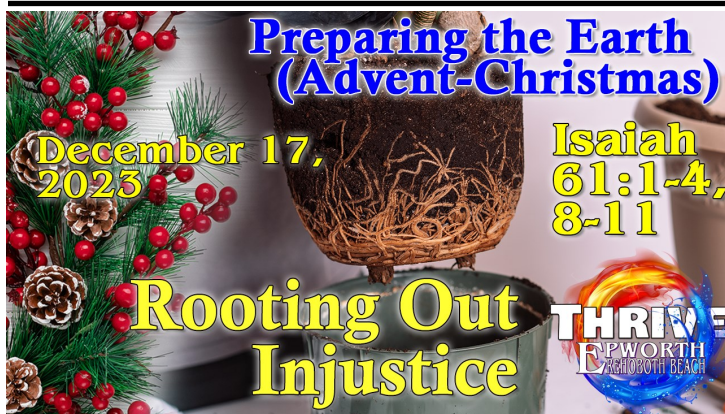
EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

Worship Order, Announcements & Prayers

Epworth.faith

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



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



EMMANUEL

Raymond Badham, ©2000 Hillsong Publishing

Together in this place of worship

Your greatness we proclaim.

We stand as one in giving You all glory and acclaim

To You our hearts are open,

to You our hands we raise.

Come take the place of honor in our lives.

Emmanuel, our God is with us.

Prince of peace, mighty one, the ever-living God.

Emmanuel, our God is with us.

Prince of peace, mighty one, the ever-living God.

See the praises of our savior rise to open skies.

With the dawning of redemption,

Your glory will arise.

For You alone are worthy,

here in Zion You are praised.

Our Lord and King forever You will reign.

{Repeat Chorus}

To You our hearts are open,

to You our hands we raise.

Come take the place of honor in our lives.

For You alone are worthy,

here in Zion You are praised.

Our Lord and King forever You will reign.

{Repeat Chorus}

A CHRISTMAS HALLELUJAH

Leonard Cohen

I've heard about this baby boy

who's come to earth to bring us joy

and I just want to sing his story to you.

It goes like this, He lived and died

upon the cross was crucified

And ev'ry word He spoke sang hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu---jah.

A couple came to Bethlehem,

expecting child, they searched 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. *{Chorus}*

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!" *{Chorus}*

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.

{Chorus Twice}

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

KING OF HEAVEN

Paul Baloche & Jason Ingram, 2012

Praise Team / Chancel Choir

Jesus, let Your kingdom come here;

let Your will be done here in us;

Jesus, there is no one greater;

You alone are Savior; show the world Your love.

King of Heaven, come down;

King of Heaven, come now;

Let your glory reign, shining like the day,

King of Heaven, come;

King of Heaven, rise up,

who can stand against us;

You are strong to save, in your mighty name,

King of Heaven, come.

We are children of your mercy,

rescued for your glory;

We cry Jesus, set our hearts towards You,

that ev'ry eye would see You lifted high.

{Repeat Chorus}

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Yearning for Joy: This morning we light the third Advent candle—the candle that traditionally stands for joy. We know that's what we're supposed to feel this time of year. At least that's what the carols and movies and Christmas cards and commercials tell us. But perhaps we're not paying attention?

Joy seems in short supply these days. Is it wise to be joyful when so much is at stake each and every day? Are we even allowed to be joyful with so much heartache in the world? Maybe we'd better leave the joy to small children.

And yet every year we hear the promises of long ago. Promises of good news, of justice, of liberty, of provision... promises of joy. And these promises don't come from a happily ever after time. The prophet spoke these promises into a context of devastation and mourning, into a season of ashes and ruin.

We yearn for it to be true. We yearn for it to be now.

This morning we light this flickering flame of joy, hoping against hope that it holds. Trusting in the One who promises.

Come, Emmanuel

Love that begins us, pardons and wins us,

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come and reign in us, Emmanuel.
Come and speak to us, fill and renew us,
come and live through us, Emmanuel.

Come Emmanuel; come Emmanuel.

Come Emmanuel; come Emmanuel.

Kid's Time

Gwen Osborne

- Announcements -

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

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}**

Prayers of the People

Bob Thoman

O come, O come Emmanuel,
to empower the weak,
to encourage the fearful,
to enlighten the blind,
to intone the deaf,
to energize the lame,
to emancipate the speechless,
to enrich the poor,
to invigorate the dead;

O come, O come Emmanuel,
come and enable us, right now,
to worship you and work for your Kingdom,
filled with your strength,
your hope,
your vision,
your melody,
your motivation,
your Word,
your inheritance,
your Life!

All this we pray,
through you, who came to be our Savior,
who lives to be our Lord,
who will return and fully make all things new,

and who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Spoken

Lesson: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11* David Streit, reader

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

May this scripture inspire us all...

§ to walk in the way that leads to life.

People of Promise, Arise

Joseph M. Martin, 2007

Chancel Choir

People arise! Prepare the way!

Let your music greet the day.

Let all the earth break forth with singing.

Let all the mountains and valleys start ringing.

People arise and share the news:

“Christ the King is coming soon!”

People arise and wake the dawn!

Shout for joy! Break froth in song!

Prophets foretold the wondrous story.

Angels will tell of His infinite glory.

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People arise and share the news:
"Christ the King is coming soon!"

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding.
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day!
Honor, glory, might and blessing,
praise the coming of the Son.

People rise, your Light has come.
Come all people, arise! Arise!

People arise and greet the morn!
Soon a Savior will be born.
He is the Hope of every nation.
All in Him shall find salvation.
People arise and share the news:
"Christ the King is coming soon!"
People arise! People of promise arise!

Prayer

David Streit

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Christ is Coming

John R. McDuff, 1953 / Henry T. Smart, 1867

Christ is coming! Let creation
from her pain and mourning cease;
let the glorious proclamation
hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, now blessed Prince of Peace.

Earth can now but tell the story
of the cross and of your pain;
she shall yet behold Your glory,
when eternal is Your reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the strain.

With that blessed hope before us,
let no harp remain unstrung;
let the mighty advent chorus
onward roll from tongue to tongue:
"Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!"

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

KING OF HEAVEN

Praise Team / Chancel Choir

Jesus, let Your kingdom come here;
let Your will be done here in us;
Jesus, there is no one greater;
You alone are Savior; show the world Your love.
King of Heaven, come down;
King of Heaven, come now;
Let your glory reign, shining like the day,

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Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Matt Maher, Rachel Taylor Popadic, & Chris Stevens

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**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 17, 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 Krean

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

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