



Sunday, February 25, 2024



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* ~

Stand in Your Love

Josh Baldwin, Ethan Hulse, Mark Harris, & Rita Springer
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When darkness tries to roll over my bones,
when sorrow comes to steal the joy I own.
When brokenness and pain is all I know,
I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken.

*My fear doesn't stand a chance
when I stand in Your love.*

*My fear doesn't stand a chance
when I stand in Your love.*

*My fear doesn't stand a chance
when I stand in Your love.*

Shame no longer has a place to hide.

I am not a captive to the lies.

I'm not afraid to leave my past behind.

I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken.

{Refrain}

There's power that can break off every chain.

There's power that can empty out a grave.

There's resurrection power that can save,
power in Your name, power in Your name.

{Refrain}

Oh when, when I'm standing in Your love.

Oh, *{Refrain}*

TAG: Oh, oh, I'm standing in Your love.

Oh, oh, standing on the rock.

Oh, I'm standing, standing in Your love.

Need You Now (How Many Times)

Christa Wells, Luke Sheets, & Tiffany Arbuckle Lee
©2010 Shoecrazy Publishing
Praise Team

Well, ev'rybody's got a story to tell,
and ev'rybody's got a wound to be healed.

I want to believe there's beauty here.

'Cause oh, I get so tired of holding on.

I can't let go, I can't move on.

I want to believe there's meaning here.

*How many times have You heard me cry
out,*

"God, please take this?"

*How many times have You given me
strength*

to just keep breathing?

Oh, I need You. God, I need You now.

Standing on a road I didn't plan,

wond'ring how I got to where I am,

I'm trying to hear that still, small voice.

I'm trying to hear above the noise.

{Refrain}

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Though I walk,
though I walk through the shadows,
and I, I am so afraid.
Please stay, please stay right beside me
with ev'ry single step I take.
How many times have You heard me cry
out?
How many times have You given me
strength?

{Refrain}

TAG: *I need You now. Oh, I need You.
God, I need You now.
I need You now. I need You now.*

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

The River

Jordan Feliz, Joshua Silverberg, & Colby Wedgeworth
©2015 Centric Songs

I know a place, where we can go,
to lay the troubles down eatin' your soul,
I know a place, where mercy flows,
take the stains, make you whiter than snow.
Like a tide, it is risin' up,
deep inside, a current that moves
and makes it come alive.

Living water that brings the dead to life.
Oh, oh.

*We're goin' down to the river,
down to the river, down to the river to
pray.*

*Let's get washed by the water,
washed by the water
and rise up in amazing grace.*

*Let's go down, down, down, to the river.
You will leave changed.*

*Let's go down, down, down, to the river.
Never the same.*

I've seen it move, in my own life,
took me from dusty roads into paradise.
All of my dirt, all of my shame,
drowned in the streams
that've made me born again.
Like a tide, it is risin' up, deep inside,
a current that moves and makes it come
alive.

Living water that brings the dead to life.
Oh, oh.

{Refrain}

Let's go down. (oo... oo... oo...)

Let's go down. (oo... oo... oo...)

Let's go down. *{Refrain}*

Oh, down. (oo... oo... oo...)

Gotta go, gotta go,
gotta go down in amazing grace.

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Down, down, down to the river.
Gotta go, gotta go,
gotta go down in amazing grace.

Kid's Time

Joy Gordy-Stith

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

Introduction and Presentation of Candidate for Baptism

Questions for Parents and Congregation

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 your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**
Will you nurture Cole in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **We will.**

Do you, Epworth family, as Christ's body, reaffirm your commitment to Jesus as our Lord? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in Christian love and practices and include these families before you in your love and care? **We will.**

Will you live as a community of love and forgiveness so that all around you will see the grace of Jesus in you? **We will.**

Will you pray for these families that they may grow into disciples who walk in the way that leads to life? **We will.**

Creed

We are not alone., we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to be grateful for God's unending love and, in turn, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our redemption and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

I Am Not Afraid

Words by Pamela Martin; Music by Lloyd Larson; ©2009

Chancel Choir

**In the emptiness of silence
when the world has turned away;
Beneath the weight of sorrow
when I can no longer pray;
In the wilderness of worry,
in the desert of despair;
In the never-ending darkness
when it seems that no one cares,
*I am not afraid, I am not alone.
You hold me in Your hands
and will not let me go.
Though the waters rise
and though the winds may blow,
I will not be afraid, for I am not alone.***

**When there are no words of comfort
that can stem the flow of tears;
When I'm stranded at the center
of a rising tide of fear;
When there is no path before me,
when my feet have lost their way,
I remember You are with me
and I am not afraid! *{Refrain}***

Prayers of the People

Laurie Kuebler

God of bended knee,

We kneel before you. We thank you for showing us what it means to give, not out of a desire for recognition or personal gain but out of deep humanity. Grant us compassion for all those who suffer, that our vocations would affirm the dignity of the systemically excluded and oppressed. Keep us from shallow callings that are only concerned with the self, and how we might advance in this world. Keep us from discernment that only draws us into our own interior worlds. As we make sense of our callings, may we do so with an unflinching awareness of the exterior world – the weeping of our neighbor, the groans of creation – so we would understand our vocation in relationship to those around us and their needs. Protect those who sense service and helping others as a primary call on their lives, that they would retain their empathy without allowing it to swallow them whole. May we learn to care for ourselves with equal gravity to which we care for those in our midst. Amen.

And now we pray the prayer the Lord taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Lesson: *Psalm 22*

David Hagelin, reader

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried and were saved;

in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

But I am a worm and not human,

scorned by others and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;

they sneer at me; they shake their heads;

“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—

let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

***When I was sinking down, sinking down,
sinking down,***

When I was sinking down, sinking down...

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;

you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my
God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near,

and there is no one to help.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor

the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me

but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember

and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations

shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.
To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow
down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

***And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
I'll sing on!***

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!

May this scripture inspire us all...

§ to walk in the way that leads to life.

All You Who Fear Jehovah's Name

Trinity Psalter / William B. Bradbury, 1861

Congregational Hymn

**All you who fear Jehovah's name,
His glory tell, His praise proclaim.
You children of His chosen race,
stand now in awe before His face.
For all the meek, God will provide,
they shall be fed and satisfied.
All they who seek the Lord will live,
and never-ending praises give.**

**O Lord, Your goodness makes me raise
amid Your people songs of praise.
Before all them who fear You, now
I worship You and pay my vow.
For God's unfailing righteousness
all generations will confess.
From age to age the world is taught
what wondrous works our God has wrought!**

Prayer

David Hagelin

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

As God Has Loved Us

J. Paul Williams / Benjamin Harlan ©1990 Glory Sound

**Love, for this is God's command,
to love each other as God loves us.
Let them know, let the world know
we belong to God.**

***This is God's commandment,
this is God's commandment,
That we love as God has loved us!
We are your disciples. Lord, we follow
you.***

***You will be our beacon, leading all to
you.***

***We are your disciples. Lord, we follow
you.***

***You will be our beacon, leading all to
you.***

Love, love is the only way
to show the people of the world God cares.
God sent his son, sent Him to die.
Calv'ry prov'd God's love.

*Follow God's commandment,
follow God's commandment,
That we love as God has loved us!
We are your disciples. Lord, we follow you.
You will be our beacon, leading all to you.
We are your disciples. Lord, we follow you.
You will be our beacon, leading all to you.*

Rise up, O church of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and mind and soul and strength
to serve the King of kings.
Amen, amen, amen...

Benediction Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

And All the People Said Amen

Matt Maher, Paul Moak, & Trevor Morgan ©2013
ThankYou Music

You are not alone if you are lonely.
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.
We are all the same, in need of mercy,
to be forgiven and be free.
It's all you get to lean on,
but thank God, it's all you need.
*And all the people said Amen.
And all the people said Amen.
Give thanks to the Lord,
for His love never ends.
And all the people said Amen.*

If you're rich or poor, well, it don't mat-
ter.
Weak or strong,
you know love is what we're after.
We're all broken, but we're all in this to-
gether.
God knows we stumble and fall,
and God so loved the world,
He sent His Son to save us all.
{Repeat Chorus}

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are
torn apart.
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure
in heart.
Blessed are the people hungry for anothe-
er start,
for theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of
God.

{Repeat Chorus twice}

TAG: And all the people said Amen.

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Joys and Concerns for your prayers this Week of February 25, 2024

Sympathy

To Katie Handy and Gwen Osborne, family and friends, on the death of Katie's sister Wanda Handy.

Concerns:

People in conflict of Israel and Gaza Strip

People of Ukraine

Deaf People of Ukraine

Gary Bacon

Ann Beigay

*Michael Beigay

David Bendekovits

*Cathy Benson

*Jeff Bond – Home yesterday

Diaz Bonville

*Andy Brangenberg

Diane Bruce

*Tim Bush

Judy Buchanan

*Jennifer Eden Family

David Caffier

Ron & Patti Cain

Joelle Colleta

Sylvie Drew

Sherri Ealy

Carol Fehrenbach

Deb Ferlitto

Finn

Marion Ford

*Vicki Gordy-Stith

*Tom Groff

Shannon Harris

Kathy Hill

Ray Hilt

Barb Hoffman

*Mickey Hoffman

Carolyn Horn

Juliano Family

Teri Fitzgerald

Vincent Imhof

Sandra Kennedy

Chloe Kincade-Crean

Kris Koch

Nancy Krupa

*Duncan Leet

Eton Lewis

Jerry Mahon

Bob Mazur

Linda McLane
*Missy Mehring
Pam Mehring
Brenda Milbourne
Joy Mitchell
Steve Mosteller
Ann Paulen
*Ron Paxton
*Glenn Pierce
Richard Pioli
*Annette Predeaux
Constance Quillen
Frank Quillen
Charlie Reynolds
Dallas Reynolds
Pete Roche
Barbara Simpson
*John Riley Spillane
Jana Raup
Judy Reich
Victoria Reinholt
Charlie Reynolds
Dallas Reynolds
Beth Rinker
Betty Robbins
Sandy Roca
Wilmarie Rodriguez
*John Sadler
*Irene & Tom Saffrit
Mark Saunders
*Ed Scarborough
Jan Silbaugh
Joan and Henry Simpson
*Fred and Sharyn Smith
Ray Sonderfan
Dee Speck
Paul Streit
*Scott Strickler
*Mark Thompson
Mike Tibets
Ryan Talumello
*Susanne Truitt
Harvey and Peggy Waltersdorf
Wanda Walton-Hummel
Tim Weschler
Michael Wills, Sr
Carol Wine
Lorrie Witcher
*Charlotte Woods
*Claire Worrall
*Susan Yates
*Jean Young

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

*Dan Wine

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

College/Grad Students

Autumn Reynolds-Cedar Crest College

*Kristina Alexander, Grad UD

Cole Thomas Juliano, Elon

Wade Stout-

*Thomas Vyas, Delaware Tech

Griffin Barrows, Marist

**Church Member*

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)

Financial Manager: [Darlene Ford](#) (x105)

Facilities Manager: [John Hilt](#)

Cemetery Superintendent: [Jay Stevenson](#)

Office Manager: [Tammy Zhang](#) (x100)

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](#)

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

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](#)