



EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

Worship Order, Announcements & Prayers

Epworth.faith

Sunday, December 15, 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* ~

Carol Sing

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the Herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
and wonders, and wonders of His love.

Noël

*Matt Redman, Ed Cash, & Chris Tomlin ©2015 ThankYou Music
Chancel Choir / Praise Team*

Love incarnate, love divine.
Star and angels gave the sign.
Bow to babe on bended knee,
the savior of humanity.
Unto us a child is born. He shall reign forevermore.

Noël, Noël.

Come and see what God has done.

*Noël, Noël. The story of amazing love,
the light of the world given for us,
Noël.*

Son of God and son of man,
there before the world began.
Born to suffer, born to save,
born to raise us from the grave.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
He shall reign forevermore.

{Chorus – Instrumental - Chorus}

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1863

Additional Lyrics and Music by Mark Hall & Dale Oliver, 2008

I heard the bells on Christmas day,
their old familiar carols play.
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
of peace on earth, good will 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."*

Kid's Time

Joy Gordy-Stith

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Carl P. Daw, 1989 / George J. Elvey, 1858

Congregational Hymn

Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleansing your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sin you prized,
yield your life to God's control.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

With such preaching stark and bold
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.

Prayers of the People

David Hagelin

Blessed Creator,

You call to us from the wild places,
and from the inner chambers of our hearts.

We come in answer to your call.

We come to pray, to praise,
to learn of your great love for all creation.

Reveal your glory that we may see it together -

Inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom
on earth in our time.

For the time draws near, of the crowning of the year,
we sing with angels,

as people in the darkness who are being changed,
and who go into a world that is being changed.

Make us ready to share the Good News

that the long-expected Jesus is coming,
that we are being freed from whatever binds us.

Glory be to God!

Who walks with us, sings with us,
and struggles with us, each and every day. Amen

*And now with the confidence of the Children of God,
let us pray the prayer Christ taught us:*

The Lord's Prayer

Spoken

Lesson: *Luke 3:1-6*

Doro Mumford, reader

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

May this scripture inspire us all...

§ to walk in the way that leads to life.

Arise and Shine

*Joseph M. Martin
Chancel Choir Anthem*

**Arise and shine! Your Light has come,
for God has sent the Promised One.**

Arise and shine! Your Light has come.

Declare the works that the Lord has done.

Sing, shout, be jubilant all the earth.

Sing of our merciful King's birth.

From out of darkness we have light,
for God has danced into our night.
Rejoice, rejoice, the heavens reply,
for our redemption draweth nigh.
Angels and people with joy may sing;
all for to praise the King of kings.

Arise and shine! Your Light has come,
for God has sent the Promised One.
People, arise and shine! Your Light has come,
for God has sent the Promised One.

Walk in the light of the Lord.
Walk in the light and rejoice for a Savior is born.

Arise and shine! Your Light has come,
for God has sent the Promised One.
Arise and shine! Your Light has come.
Declare the works that the Lord has done.
Sing, shout, be jubilant all the earth.
Sing of our merciful King's birth,
our merciful King's birth.
People of Zion arise! Arise! Arise! Arise!

Prayer for Our Pastor Doro Mumford

Sermon Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

One Gift Alone

Mark Gruber-Lebonitz, 2024 / English Folk Melody

One Gift alone transformed this world,
God's grace to humankind unfurled;
One child whose birth made all things new,
God's kindom come for me and you.

It was a silent, sacred night
When herald angel song took flight,
as Eastern star mapped out the way
to Mercy cradled in the hay.

Both high and humble knelt in awe
before this miracle they saw;
in homage to the newborn One
through whom great things would soon be done.

And still today the angels sing,
inviting us our best to bring
as starlight beckons hearts back home
to claim anew one Gift alone.

Benediction Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

A Christmas Hallelujah

Leonard Coben

Praise Team / Chancel Choir

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, he 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.

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 ya.

It was just as the angels said,
"You'll find him in a manger bed!
Emmanuel and Savior, hallelujah!"

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

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.

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

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

Annual Worship Theme September 2024—August 2025

Hospitality
[Hebrews 13:2](#)



Joys and Concerns for your prayers this Week of December 15, 2024

SYMPATHY

To Joyce Lewis, family and friends, on the death of her husband,
Harry

To the family and friends of Carolyn Robinson who passed away
12/4

CONCERNS

People in conflict of Israel and Gaza Strip

People of Ukraine

Deaf People of Ukraine

Nicole Anderson

Zach & Emma Anderson

Cody Angstadt

Joey Augustine

*Michael Beigay

David Bendekovits

*Cathy Benson

Linda Bingnear

Gary Bodmer

Robert Bodner

*Janine Bond

*Jeff Bond

Mallory Banczar

*Andy Brangenberg

Sue Brenton

Diane Bruce

*Tim Bush

David Caffier

Colson Cleaver

Mary Jane Colgan

Ian Cooper

Angela Cregar

*Ruth Ann Curley

Laurene Dalpezzo

Karen Donahoe

*Jane Drapper

Erin Drummond

Alan Dzilak

Mya Douglas

Ginny Downs

Ayva Dudley

*Jennifer Eden Family

Blaine Fasnacht

*Roni Fiedler

Marion Ford

Luna and Nathan Franco

Dayna Fuller

Fran Garside

Linda Fink Gregory

Dayna Faller

Ezra Groff

*Tom Groff

Mark Gruber-Lebowitz

*David Hagalin

*Clella Harp

Linda Hartlove

Dahlia Hill

Kathy Hill

Ray Hilt

Barb Hoffman

Connie Hoffman

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Mickey Hoffman
Kate Howells
Wayne Hudson
Bonnie Hudson
Lorraine Hudson
Eric Jancheimer
Jimmy Jenkins
Eric Johnson
*Sandra Kennedy
Matthew Kenworthy
Mary Ellen King
Martha Kotch
*Charles LoPresto
*Loretta Mahan
Donald Mahon
Jerry Mahon
Sean and Adrienne McCullough
Kaitlyn McCutcheon
Patrick McManamon
*Jan and Marv Malone
*Frances Mason
Bob Mazur
Michie Mader
Karen Monahan
Aviana Aurora Montano
Jack O'Day
*Bob Paulen
*Ron Paxton
*Sandy & Glenn Pierce
Richard Pioli
*Dan Potts
*Annette Predeaux
Constance Quillen
Frank Quillen
*Frank Riley-Spillane
Beth Rinker
Pete Roche
*Gary Ralph
Jana Raup
Judy Reich
*Bill Robbins
*Alyse Rogers
John Ruff
Herb Russell
*John Sadler
*Irene & Tom Safrit
*Carl Schloegel
*Fred and Sharyn Smith
*Loretta Smith
Ron Soltes
Ray Sonderfan
*Chet Sprague
Mike Sprague
Steve
*Scott Strickler, moved to Texas
*Cheryl Tarlecky
*Mark Thompson
Ryan Talumello
Dean Tibbetts
Mike Tibbetts
Mike & Erin Tibets
Rene Toney
Nancy Trinkley
*Susanne Truitt
Becky Vye and Family
Lee Ann Walling

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

*Peggy Waltersdorf
Hudson Walton
Donald Walton
Debbie Webber
*Tina Whaley
Michael Wills, Sr
*Carol Woodcock
*Charlotte Woods
*Claire Worrall
*Michelle Yates
*Jean Young

***Church Members**

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
*Janet Yabroff
Jamie Bradley

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-Grad Student Cedar Crest College
*Kristina Alexander, Grad Student Western Governor's U
Callie Juliano, U Conn
Cole Thomas Juliano, Elon
Noah Ryan, Delaware Tech
*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](#)

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

Facilities Manager: [John Hilt](#)

Kitchen Sexton: [Maureen Knesel](#)

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

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—[Dee Speck](#)

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](#)