



EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

Worship Order, Announcements & Prayers

Epworth.faith

Sunday, December 22, 2024

December 22, 2024

Welcome All
in Need
Luke 1:46b-55



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* ~

Congregational Carol Sing

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see Thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in Thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God and King,
and peace to all on earth!

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears, 1849 / Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why Your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire Your heavenly song? *{Refrain}*

He Has Come For Us

*Jason Ingram & Meredith Andrews ©2010 Sony / ATV Publishing
Praise Team / Chancel Choir*

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 is hope for humankind.

He has come for us, the Messiah,

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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!”

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

*Chris Tomlin & Daniel Carson ©2009 WorshipTogether.com Songs
Chancel Choir / Praise Team*

Good news of great joy for every woman, every man.
This will be a sign to you, a baby born in Bethlehem.
Come and worship, do not be afraid.

A company of angels, “Glory in the highest!”
And on the earth peace among those
on whom His favor rests.
Come and worship, do not be afraid.
*My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord.
My soul magnifies the Lord.
He has done great things for me,
great things for me.*

Unto you a child is born, unto us a son is giv’n.
Let every heart prepare his throne
Let every nation under heav’n.
Come and worship, do not be afraid.
{Chorus Twice}

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Manifesting Love: This morning we light the fourth Advent candle—the candle that traditionally stands for love. Now we’re getting to the heart of the matter! Hope, peace, joy...those things are hard to muster. But love? Love finds us right where we are—wherever we are, whoever we are.

All these prophets of old have kept inviting us to imagine a different world, a seemingly faraway world. A world filled with hope, paved with peace, overflowing with joy. It’s a hard sell. But where our imaginations fall short, that’s where love takes over.

Mary’s song joins past, present, and future—boldly proclaiming what Love has done, what Love is doing, and what Love will continue to do. Mary’s song invites us to imagine not a faraway world but this one. Right here and right now. The Love being born in us, through us, for us, with us.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

This morning we light this defiant flame of love, boldly living into our own calling to manifest that same Love in our own lives. The Love who was born long ago in a manger. The Love who continues steadfast with us this day. The Love who will never give up, from generation to generation. Amen.

Come, Emmanuel

Love that begins us, pardons and wins us,
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

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Ralph Vaughn-Williams

Congregational Hymn

My soul gives glory to my God.

My heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness
in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me:
yes, holy is this name.

All people will declare me blessed,
and blessing they shall claim.

From age to age, to all who fear,
such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near,
dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied,
the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant
supports those in distress,
remembering past promises
with present faithfulness.

My soul gives glory to my God.

My Heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness,
in many marvelous ways.

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

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

The Lord's Prayer

Sung Responsively

Lesson: *Luke 1:46b-55*

Bill Martin, reader

Mary's Song of Praise

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

May this scripture inspire us all...

§ to walk in the way that leads to life.

Lift Up Your Heads

*Joseph M. Martin – from Journey of Promises
Chancel Choir Anthem*

**Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors;
open up and let the King of glory come in.
Let the King of glory come in.
Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors;
open up and let the King of glory come in.
Let the King of glory come in.**

**Who is the King of glory? Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of Hosts! He is the King of glory!
The Lord of Hosts! He is the King of glory!**

**Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors;
open up and let the King of glory come in.
Let the King of glory come in.**

**Alleluia, let us sing to the one eternal King.
Alleluia, evermore, to the King and Lord of lords.**

**Who is the King of glory? Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of Hosts! He is the King of glory.
The Lord of Hosts! He is the King of glory.**

**Fugue: Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors;
open up and let the King of glory come in.
Let the King of glory come in. Let the King of glory.
Unison: Let the King of glory in!**

Prayer for Our Pastor

Bill Martin

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

View the Present Through the Promise

*Thomas H. Troeger, 1994 / Traditional Welsh melody
Congregational Hymn*

**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,**

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

It's Christmas

Traditional Carols adapted by Chris Tomlin and Ed Cash

©2015 Worship Together Music

Praise Team / Chancel Choir

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

*It's Christmas! The angels are singing,
and I know the reason the Savior is born.*

*It's Christmas! The bells are ringing,
and I feel like shouting joy to the world!*

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with You there. *{Chorus}*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

{Instrumental – Chorus}

TAG: Joy to the world! Joy to the world!

Annual Worship Theme September 2024—August 2025

Hospitality



Joys and Concerns for your prayers this Week of December 22, 2024

SYMPATHY

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

Cathy Craford

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

Sue Higgs

Dahlia Hill

Kathy Hill

Ray Hilt

Barb Hoffman

Connie Hoffman

Mickey Hoffman

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Bobby Horn
Kate Howells
Wayne Hudson
Bonnie Hudson
Lorraine Hudson
Eric Jancheimer
Jimmy Jenkins
Eric Johnson
*Sandra Kennedy
Matthew Kenworthy
Mary Ellen King
Martha Kotch
Donna Lipscomb
*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
Chris Porter
*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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Becky Vye and Family
Lee Ann Walling
*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](#)