



Tuesday 5:00pm, December 24, 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.



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~ *We Gather in Worship* ~

Organ Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. *{Refrain}*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *{Refrain}*

⌘ Lighting of the Christ Candle ⌘

All season long, we have been lighting candles as we prepare for this special night—the night we welcome baby Jesus, God’s love born among us. We lit candles standing for hope, peace, joy, and love.

We hope for a day when our world is at peace. We hope for a peace sustained not by a temporary truce, but a peace sustained by justice for all of God’s beloved children.

We hope for a day when all people know that they are loved, when all people are free to experience joy. We hope for this future that sometimes feels really far away.

We hope because God has promised that a new reality is possible. A New Creation even! We hope because God has a habit of showing up in unlikely places...just when we least expect it!

Tonight, we light those candles of hope, peace, joy, and love as our prayer for the world and as our commitment to be a part of its transformation.

And... tonight we light an extra candle. The white candle. The center candle. The Christ Candle! For tonight our hope for a different future collides with a story from our ancient past, and God shows up once more right here in our messy present!

God knows full well the pain and brokenness of our world and chooses to show up anyway, right into the thick of it! Emmanuel. God with us!

For unto us this day, in the city of David, a child is born. A Savior. God’s Love made flesh! Thanks be to God. Amen.

It’s Christmas

Traditional Hymns / Arr and Chorus by Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash

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,

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

*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!

Lesson: *John 1:1-14*

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

∞ Lessons & Carols ∞

The ABC's of Christmas

Introduction

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.

Christmas A - F

O Little Town of Bethlehem (cont)

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 the earth!

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Christmas G - I

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!”

Christmas J - M

What Child Is This

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

Christmas N & O

What Child Is This (cont)

Why lies He in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *{Refrain}*

Christmas P - S

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
*O, Star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Christmas T - W

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!*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Christmas X - Z

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
While shepherds kept their watching

o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shows a holy light. {Chorus}

A Christmas Hallelujah

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.

Prayers of the People

We come to your manger, each of us,
in the stillness of this night,

Here we know our profound powerlessness,
and here you are –
a fragile powerless newborn,
yet the newborn child in whom we recognize
the ruler of the universe.

We hear your newborn cry, the cry we have been waiting for –
"Make room! Make room for me!"

Fragile God, born in the night –

Meet us here at your manger.

Meet us as a newborn child meets new parents,
come to change our lives forever.

Meet us as the newborn

who insists that we make room for you,
who requires that we reorder our lives
to pay attention to you,
who demands that we be re-centered
on the very center of life.

Fragile God, born in the night –

You come as a tiny light in a vast darkness
yet that fragile and flickering light
changes the darkness completely.

Fragile God,

meet us here in the lighting of our small lights,

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

that we may know your awesome power
making room among us
as the light that shines in the darkness,
the fragile light that the darkness cannot overpower.

Fragile God, there is room in our inn.
Be born in our night.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Spoken

Noël

Matt Redman, Ed Cash, & Chris Tomlin ©2015 ThankYou Music

**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}

Prayer for Our Pastor

Mike Tyler

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

∞ The Light of Christ ∞

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

SILENT NIGHT

**Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia!”
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

∞ The Light of Christ Leads Us Into The World ∞

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat,
repeat, the sounding joy.

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.

Annual Worship Theme September 2024—August 2025

Hospitality



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](#)