



EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

Worship Order, Announcements & Prayers

Epworth.faith

Thursday, April 17, 2025



Welcome to Epworth Worship
Thursday 7 pm
in-person and online

7 pm [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* ~

As candles are lighted:

L: From Isaiah 45 –

Blessed are you Holy One, our God,
Creator of the universe.

You form light and create darkness,
make peace and give life to all things.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

In This Room, a Towel and Basin

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2009 / Natalie Sleeth, 1986

**In this room, a towel and basin
stand as gifts we don't deserve.
Christ, you humbly knelt to use them;
showing us the way to serve.
On a table, set for dinner
are your gifts of wine and bread.
Christ, you give to every sinner
food and love, till all are fed.**

**From you, Lord, we hear a teaching:
“Now I give a new command.
Love as I have loved, out-reaching!
Then the world will understand!”
Basin, supper, word and witness —
then a cross — revealed your Way.
May we put our faith in practice,
humbly serving you each day.**

We join a solemn journey of three days
that has changed the world and our own lives.
Followers of Jesus have been taking this journey
since his first followers took it, long ago.

On the night Jesus took a towel and basin,
and washed his disciples' feet.
On this night he told them to do the same for others
to show their love for him and for one another.
This is the night of love.

On this night, followers of Jesus
have invited those preparing for baptism
to begin with them a solemn vigil of prayer and fasting
until the day of Christ's resurrection is fulfilled.
This is the night of love.

On this night, Jesus broke bread
and shared wine with his followers for the last time,
and invited them to remember him
to encounter him anew,
whenever they did the same.
This is the night of love.

On this night, followers of Jesus have welcomed those
who have returned to the way of Jesus,
after a time of wandering and a journey of returning.
This is the night of love.

This is the night of love.
And so, on this night,
we welcome the penitent...
all here have wandered...
and invite all preparing...
all here are still learning...
to join us in hearing and obeying
the commandment of our Master

and to feast at his table,
that we may love one another
as He has loved us.

Come, ye sinners.
Come, ye thirsty.
Come, ye weary.
Come to the night of love.

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Joseph Hart, 1759 / Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.**

*I will arise and go to Jesus;
He will embrace me with His arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.*

**Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh. {Refrain}**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all. {Refrain}**

**Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness He requireth
is to feel Your need of Him. {Refrain}**

Let's Walk Together

Laurie Zelman and Mark A. Miller, 2007

**Let's walk together for a while
and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow,
and hope can enter in.
To be the hands of healing
and to plant the seeds of peace.**

Singing welcome, welcome to this place.

You're invited

to come and know God's grace.

*All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;*

All are welcome to this place.

Gospel Lesson

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”

Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them,

“Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

After 1st reading of the Gospel, explain Lectio Divina –

Notice what stood out to them, jot down a word or two to remember.

2nd reading: Invite all to listen more intently to those words or themes to hear more clearly what the Spirit is speaking or showing.

3rd reading: invite all to listen and decide one action each will take to obey the Spirit’s promptings from the Word.

Invite them to share what they noticed, what the Spirit showed them, and one thing they intend to do to follow the Spirit’s direction.

Responding to the Spirit: Washing Feet

Let’s Walk Together [cont]

**Let’s talk together of a time
when we will share a feast,
where pride and power kneel to serve
the lonely and the least.
And joy will set the table
as we join our hands to pray: {Refrain}**

This is the night of love.

Jesus washed His disciples’ feet,
reversing roles of master and student,
servant and host, and told them to do the same
to show the world God’s love and theirs.

On this night, we wash each other’s feet,
obeying Christ’s command to love one another
as He has loved us.

Come. Let Christ love you here,
and share that love with another.

Music during Foot-Washing

Sacred the Body

**Sacred the body God has created,
temple of Spirit that dwells deep inside.**

Cherish each person; nurture creation.
Treat flesh as holy, that love may abide.

Bodies are varied, made in all sizes,
pale, full of color, both fragile and strong.
Holy the difference, gift of the Maker,
so let us honor each story and song.

Love respects persons, bodies and boundaries.
Love does not batter, neglect, or abuse.
Love touches gently, never coercing.
Love leaves the other with power to choose.

Holy of holies, God ever loving,
makes us Your temples; indwell all we do.
May we be careful, tender and caring,
so may our bodies give honor to you.

The Servant Song

We are travelers on a journey,^a
fellow pilgrims on the road;
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of Your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

Sister, let me be Your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.
When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony.
Born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be Your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.
I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share Your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

As foot-washing concludes:

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity
may one day be restored:

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love;*

yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land: {Refrain}

We will work with each other,
we will work side by side,
we will work with each other,
we will work side by side,

and we'll guard each other's dignity
and save each other's pride: *{Refrain}*

All praise to Jehovah, from whom all things come,
and all praise to the Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
{Refrain}

Invitation to the Table

For Everyone Born

For everyone born, a place at the table.
For everyone born, clean water and bread.
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

*And God will delight
when we are creators of justice
and joy---, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.*

For young and for old, a place at the table.
A voice to be heard, a part in the song.
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

{Repeat Chorus}

For gay and for straight, a place at the table.
A covenant shared, a welcoming space.
A rainbow of race and gender and color.
For gay and for straight, the chalice of grace.

{Repeat Chorus twice}

TAG: Of justice, justice and joy!

Of justice, justice and joy!

Of justice, justice and joy!

This is the night of love.

And this is the table of love.

At this table, Christ, who loves us, is with us.

He is with us, and we are his. We belong to God.

And so we pray:

**We are yours, all yours, blessed Triune God,
all our lives, all our thanks, all our praise,
all our fears, all our grumbling, all our hesitations,
all our loves, all our joys, all our passions,
we give them all to you, with bodies, minds, and voices.**

Yours the blessing, yours the praise,
from the unimaginable silence before Creation,
beyond the farthest reaches of time and space,
from infinity to infinity, everlasting to everlasting,
you are God, boundless in love and power.

But what are we that you should notice us?

What are we that you should love us?

What are we that you should call us

into covenant with you.

a covenant we continually broke

and You continuously sustained.

Mercy! How full of mercy!

How can we but praise you,

Joining our voices with the song of angels and saints,

seraphim and martyrs,

strangers and family in every generation.

Jesus Christ who comes in our God's name,

You are worthy!

Lamb of God for all creation slain,

You are worthy!

Hosanna to our King! Hosanna to our King!

You are holy, O God!

You are worthy, O Christ!

Worthy in your birth! Worthy in your living!

Worthy in your loving! Worthy in your serving!

You preached good news that God's kingdom has drawn near
and gathered disciples, then and now, to learn and show the
world what life in God's reign means:

healing for the sick, new life for the dead,

cleansing for the unclean, sight for the blinded,

food for the hungry, freedom for the possessed,

love poured out for all.

**Worthy the night you took a towel and basin,
washed your disciples' feet, and taught them to do like-
wise.**

Worthy too, the same night we betrayed you,
when you took the bread, blessed it and broke it,
and gave it to your disciples.

Worthy when you told them,

"This is my body broken for you. Remember me."

We remember.

Worthy when you took the cup,

praised God and shared it, and worthy when you said,

"This is my blood of the now covenant for you.

Remember me."

We remember.

We remember, and we praise you with our lives
and these gifts of bread and wine,

proclaiming with one voice the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Come upon us, Holy Spirit.

Come upon these gifts.

Make them be for us Christ's body, Christ's blood.

Make us one body in Christ enlivened in love.

One in heart, one in mind, one in you, Holy Spirit,
as you move us to pray for the church and the world:

That we may proclaim the gospel boldly:

Hear us, Lord.

That healing may come for people who are sick,
and peoples who are torn and weary:

Hear us, Lord.

That many dead and left for dead may be raised,
and death itself vanquished:

Hear us, Lord.

That all who are unclean may receive your cleansing grace:

Hear us, Lord.

That all who are possessed, oppressed, distressed, depressed and
downcast may be set free at last.

Hear us, Lord.

That we may love one another, and all your creation,
as you have loved us.

Hear us, Lord.

Even so, come and fill this feast, Holy Spirit,
on this night and every night

until we eat at the heavenly table.

**All blessing, honor, glory and power be yours,
Holy Triune God, now and forever.
Amen!**

The Lord's Prayer

§ **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Following Communion:

Thank you, God,
for uniting us with Jesus in this holy mystery.
We are no longer our own, but yours.
So send us, and put us to leading and serving,
Loving as you have loved us wherever we go.
Amen.

This is the night of love.
Go forth in the strength of this feast,
In the care of this community,
And with the love and blessing of our Triune God.
Amen.

*Our time of meditation ends in silence.
You are invited to stay as long as you wish
to meditate and pray.*

Holy Week Schedule

Good Friday, April 18 **7:00 p.m.**

Easter Sunday Schedule

Easter Sunday, April 20
Unified Worship **10:00 a.m.**

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—[Tom Lewis](#)

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

Inviting Leadership Team

(Inclusive Ministries, Food Ministries, Ecumenical/Interfaith, Social Justice)

[Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith](#) and [Mike Tyler](#)

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](#)