



# EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

Worship Order, Announcements & Prayers  
[Epworth.faith](http://Epworth.faith)

Sunday, November 30, 2025

**November 30, 2025**

**IMAGINE ALL  
THE PEOPLE  
LIVING**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

**JESUS &  
HUMAN  
DIGNITY**



**Welcome to Epworth Worship**  
**Sunday 9:50 am**  
**in-person and online**

**9:50 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](http://Epworth.faith)



~ *We Gather in Worship* ~

**Emmanuel**

*Raymond Badham, ©2000 Hillsong Publishing  
Praise Team / Chancel Choir*

Together in this place of worship  
Your greatness we proclaim.  
We stand as one in giving You  
all glory and acclaim  
To You our hearts are open,  
to You our hands we raise.  
Come take the place of honor in our lives.  
*Emmanuel, our God is with us.  
Prince of peace, mighty one, the ever-living God.  
Emmanuel, our God is with us.  
Prince of peace, mighty one, the ever-living God.*

See the praises of our Savior rise to open skies.  
With the dawning of redemption Your glory will arise.  
For You alone are worthy,  
here in Zion You are praised.  
Our Lord and King forever You will reign.  
*{Repeat Chorus}*

To You our hearts are open,  
to You our hands we raise.  
Come take the place of honor in our lives.  
For You alone are worthy,  
here in Zion You are praised.  
Our Lord and King forever You will reign.  
*{Repeat Chorus}*

**Give This Christmas Away**

*Matthew West & Sam Mizell ©2009 Simple Tense Songs  
Praise Team / Chancel Choir*

What if I told you, you had the pow'r  
to give someone hope  
beyond their wildest dreams?  
What if I told you it's right there  
in your hands, in your hands?  
It's hard to imagine how something  
so small can make all the difference,  
Tear down the tallest wall.  
What if December looked different this year?  
What if we all just give this Christmas away?  
If there's love in your heart, don't let it stay there.  
*Give this Christmas away,  
and your life will be changed  
by the gift you receive  
when you give this Christmas away.*

It's feeding the hungry, serving the poor.  
It's telling the orphan,  
"You're not forgotten anymore."  
It's doing what love does,  
even when no one's watching you.  
*Give this Christmas away.  
If there's love in your heart,  
don't let it stay there.  
Give this Christmas away,  
and your life will be changed  
by the gift you receive  
when you give this Christmas away.*

For God so loved the world  
that he gave us all His Son,  
So we could be His hands, His feet,

His love, His love.

What if I told you,  
you had the pow'r to give someone hope  
far beyond their wildest dreams?  
What if December looked different this year?  
Yeah, what if we all just {Chorus}

**TAG:** *Give this Christmas away.  
You have the power, just give it away.  
Give Christmas away.  
Give it away.  
Give Christmas away.*

**Welcome** Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

**Announcements** Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

### God So Loved

*Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash  
& Andrew Bergthold ©2019 We the Kingdom Music  
Praise Team / Chancel Choir*

**Come, all you weary. Come all you thirsty.  
Come to the well that never runs dry.  
Drink of the water. Come and thirst no more.**

**Come, all you sinners. Come, find His mercy.  
Come to the table. He will satisfy.  
Taste of His goodness.  
Find what you're looking for.**

*For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us.*

*Whoever believes in Him will live forever.*

**Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.  
Come, lay them down at the foot of the cross.  
Jesus is waiting there with open arms.  
See His open arms?**

*For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us.*

*Whoever believes in Him will live forever.*

*The pow'r of hell, forever defeated.*

*Now it is well; I'm walking in freedom.*

*For God so loved, God so loved the world.*

**Praise God, praise God,  
from Whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, praise Him  
for the wonders of His love.  
Praise God, praise God,  
from Whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, praise Him  
for the wonders of His love, His amazing love.**

*{Repeat Chorus}*

**Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.  
Come, lay them down at the foot of the cross.  
Jesus is waiting. God so loved the world.**

### ~The Lighting of the Advent Candle~

The mystery begins.  
Where the winter finds its feet  
the rush of frost and chill  
competes with the old hope of incarnation.

Darker nights unfold  
and with the fading of the light the sun weakens  
and with the fading of the light the sun weakens  
the mystery of the ancient hope is alight once more.

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For from the stump of Jesse the dry old tree of David's line -  
comes a new branch, a new shoot cracking through the season  
with a promise yet unfulfilled.

This is the hoping, the waiting, the advent.

Let us gather round the words the prophets spoke long ago  
and believe: Emmanuel is on the way

**Lesson:** *Isaiah 2:1-5* Murray Archibald, reader

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and  
Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be  
raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the  
mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he  
may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of  
the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many  
peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their  
spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against  
nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!  
May this scripture inspire us all...

**§ to walk in the way that leads to life.**

Dear God,  
As we begin our Advent pilgrimage,  
grant us the courage to hope.  
Hope for your presence,  
Hope for your peace,  
Hope for your promise. Amen.

### **Bring Hope**

*Deborah Patterson, 2024*

**We pray for hope, God, in our world,  
so wrenched by war and sorrow.  
Give us rebirth, and rid our earth  
of fear and hate tomorrow.**

*Bring hope to every mind,*

*and heal all wounded humankind.*

*Bring hope to every heart, as people of one Maker.*

**Kid's Time**

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

### **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

*Kathleen Thomerson, 1966*

Congregational Hymn

**I want to walk as a child of the light.**

**I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give light to the world.**

**The star of my life is Jesus.**

*In Jesus there is no darkness at all.*

*The night and the day are both alike.*

*The Lamb is the light of the city of God.*

*Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

**I want to see the brightness of God.**

**I want to look at Jesus.**

**Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. {Refrain}**

### **Introduction and Presentation of Candidate for Baptism**

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## 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 Colson 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.**

### Congregational 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.**

### In the Bleak Midwinter

*Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 / Gustav Holst, 1906*

Congregational Hymn

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when He comes to reign.**

**In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but His mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.**

**What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.**

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

God, our caring Creator,  
who gave your beloved Son to ransom all people,  
see our human fears and love us anyway.

Guide us through this season with quiet, glad anticipation.  
Help us to pay attention to the poor and needy,  
and to the lonely among us.

Give us a spirit of reflection, patience with each other,  
and hearts brimming with thanks.

We pray to you, O God,  
to see into our troubles and weaknesses,  
Into the barren places of our souls, Come Lord,  
**§ *Come down, come in,  
come among us and make us whole.***

Into the war torn and the refugee,  
Into those who live in conflict, Come Lord,  
**§ *Come down, come in,  
come among us and make us whole.***

Into the homeless and the unemployed,  
Into those who feel abandoned, Come Lord,  
**§ *Come down, come in,  
come among us and make us whole.***

Into the sick and the disabled,  
Into those who struggle with mental illness, Come, Lord  
**§ *Come down, come in,  
come among us and make us whole.***

Into the poor and the starving,  
Into those who are oppressed or abused, Come Lord  
**§ *Come down, come in,  
come among us and make us whole.***

Into the lives of loved ones,  
Into those from whom we are estranged, Come Lord,  
**§ *Come down, come in,  
come among us and make us whole.***

Into our joys and celebrations,  
Into our work and our achievements, Come, Lord  
**§ *Come down, come in,  
come among us and make us whole.***

O Christ we long for your coming. Hasten that day when those  
who seek you in every nation will join to share the table in Your  
Kingdom as one great family living in peace, harmony, joy and  
love. AMEN

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Spoken*

### **A Prayer for Advent**

*Joseph M. Martin, 2009*

Chancel Choir

**Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Deliver us from doubt and fear.  
Grant us joy and peace.  
Restore our hope, redeem our hearts.  
Let our sorrows cease.**

**Let all our bitterness and hate**

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surrender to your loving way,  
O veni, veni, come, Emmanuel.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Our longing hearts are waiting Lord,  
waiting in the night.

Let all the clouds of sin and shame  
give way to truth and light.

Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease.

Fill all the world with joy and peace.

O veni, veni, come, Emmanuel.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, O come, Emmanuel.

**Prayer for Our Pastor** Murray Archibald

**Sermon** Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

### **Jesus Come, Be Born Anew**

*An Advent Hymn for a Hurting World*

*Mark Gruber-Lebowitz, 2023 / J. G. Werner's Choralbuch, 1815*

Jesus come, be born anew  
for a world adrift from You.

Call our hearts to watch and pray  
for a righteous Christmas Day.

Now our journey has begun  
to Your manger, blessed One.

We await Your birth this year  
midst a time of dread and fear.

On our streets, as bullets fly,  
in the crossfire young ones die.

Come and shatter hearts of stone;  
Arm us with Your love alone.

Nations battle over land;

Bombs are dropped, revenge is planned.

Soldiers and civilians fall,

Your beloved, one and all.

Christ our brother, Prince of Peace,  
bid all warring madness cease.

Words as well are weaponized  
to defame and demonize

race or creed that's not our own;

Love unlike the kind we've known.

In Your coming, let us find

You in all of humankind.

Now Your Advent people call:

"Be reborn within us all.

Live in all we strive to do,

waging peace to honor You.

Make us partners in the birth

of Your kin-dom here on earth!"

**Benediction** Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

### **Light a Candle**

*Joel Lindsay & Wayne Haun, 1999*

Praise Team

Light a candle...

For the old man who sits staring  
out a frosty windowpane.

Light a candle...

For the woman who is lonely  
and ev'ry Christmas it's the same,  
For the children who need more  
than presents can bring.

*Light a candle. Light the dark.*

*Light the world. Light a heart or two.*

*Light a candle for me;*

*I'll light a candle for you.*

Light a candle... [light a candle]

For the homeless and the hungry:  
A little shelter from the cold.

Light a candle... [light a candle]

For the broken and forgotten.

May the season warm the soul.

Can we open our hearts  
to shine through the dark. {Chorus}

And in this special time of year  
May peace on earth surround us here  
and teach us there's a better way to live.

Oh, and with every flame that burns  
we must somehow learn  
that love's the greatest gift  
that we could ever give. {Chorus - 3x}

Annual Worship Theme  
Nov. 30, 2025 - Jan. 4, 2026

Jesus & Human Dignity  
Advent-Christmas Series



# Joys and Concerns for your prayers this Week of November 30, 2025

## **SYMPATHY**

- Sympathy to Scott Button and David Streit, family and friends, on the death of Scott's stepmother, Pat.
- Sympathy to Maryann Sheridan and Suzanne, family and friends, on the death of Maryann's brother, Michael.
- Sympathy to Renee Toney, family and friends, on the death of her father, Melvin.

## **CONCERNS**

Those impacted by shootings  
People in conflict of Israel and Gaza Strip  
People of Ukraine  
Deaf People of Ukraine  
Arletta  
Marie Ahern  
Zach & Emma Anderson  
Matias Baker  
\*Cathy Benson  
Michael Bedard  
\*Jeff Bond  
Brint and Lynne  
Brooke and Ralph  
\*Tim Bush  
Dave  
David Caffier  
Sr. Christine Carrigg  
\*Rob Cline  
Donna and Bill Crnkovich  
Renee Downs  
\*Jane Drapper  
\*Jennifer Eden Family  
Carilyle Erich  
Deb Ferlitto and Mother  
Coleson Alexander Fillmore  
Marion Ford  
Carol Anne Fowler  
Sterling Green  
\*Tom Groff  
Toni Groff  
Jerich Hasieber  
Kathy Hertley  
Martha Kallaher  
Mark Gruber-Lebowitz  
\*Jimmy/Linda Hess  
Ray Hilt  
Connie Ann Holms-Tatom  
\*George Leet  
Deb2lra Leiss  
\*Donna Lipscomb  
Logan  
Bob Luedel  
Janis Lunn  
\*Loretta Mahan  
Patrick Mahan  
Donald Mahon  
Jerry Mahon  
\*Stephanie Manos  
Larry Mazzoni  
Sean and Adrienne McCullough  
Kaitlyn McCutcheon  
Mo Madden

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\*Marv Malone  
Bob Mazur  
Josh Mikalowski  
\*Dotti Outland  
\*Ron Paxton  
\*Sandy & Glenn Pierce  
Quinn Family  
\*Janene Riley-Spillane-Surgery  
\*Bill Robbins  
Bill Roche  
Emmalea Ruff  
John Ruff  
\*John Sadler  
Jean Safrit  
\*Irene & Tom Safrit  
\*Carl Schloegel  
\*Fred and Sharyn Smith  
\*Loretta Smith  
Owen Thompson  
Beth Toney  
Melvin Toney  
Rene Toney  
Steven Trantum  
Lee Ann Walling  
Peggy Waltersdorf  
Hudson Walton  
Donald Walton  
\*Deb Weber  
\*Suzanne Weidner  
Wendy  
\*Tim Whaley  
\*Tina Whaley  
Michael Wills, Sr  
\*Lynne Wilmer  
\*Carol Woodcock  
\*Charlotte Woods  
\*Claire Worrall  
\*Tom Worrall  
\*Michelle Yates  
\*Linda Miniscako & Jeanne Drake  
Don Ziegler

### **\*Church Members**

### **Prayers for those in Assisted Living, Homebound, Hospice or in Long Term Care**

\*Jean Young Palliative Care  
Melba Bengston, Hospice @ Home  
\*Ann Chambers, The Moorings  
Leon Cromer, Harbor Health  
Ken Gilson- Hospice Vermont  
\*Nancy Hecker Hospice Salisbury  
\*Debra Leiss -Hospice Home  
Gary Ralph, Polaris Milford  
\*Linda Rooney  
Quinn Smith  
Elaine Trexler  
\*Janet Yabroff

### **Servicemen/Women:**

Michael Sakurai Wills, US Army Ft. Jackson, Alaska  
Hailye Wilson, USCG Mobile, AL  
Luke Wilson, USCG Pascagoula, MS  
Zeb Wilson, Travis AFB, CA  
Jacob Hudson, USMC Camp Pendleton, CA  
Andrew Hudson, US Army, Ft. Bliss, TX

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**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, UD

Noah Ryan, Delaware Tech

\*Thomas Vyas, UD

Griffin Barrows, Marist

Grant Barrows, UNC Charlotte

Hunter Zhang, UD

# 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)

Bookkeeper: [Bryan Warner](#) (x105)

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](#)