



# EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

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

Sunday, December 14, 2025

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HELP IS ON  
THE WAY

Matthew 11:2-11

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 ~

### Adore

Graham Kendrick & Martin Chalk ©2015 SixSteps Songs

Praise Team

You stepped down from heaven.  
Humbly, you came.  
God of all creation here with us.  
In a starlit manger, Emmanuel,  
Light of the World here to save.  
*Adore, come let us adore,  
O come, let us adore Him!  
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord.  
Let all that is within us adore.*

Wise men bring their treasures,  
shepherds bow low, angel voices sing  
of peace on earth.  
What have I to offer to heaven's king?  
I will bring my life, my love, my all. *{Chorus}*

Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening.  
At Your feet we fall. *{repeat section – Chorus}*

### Hope Was Born This Night

Dave Frey, ©2010 Dayspring Music, LLC.

Praise Team

Tonight, I can see a star shine,  
and its splendor fills up the sky.  
It's the same that appeared,  
and the Wise Men revered,  
when Hope was born this night.  
Out upon the snowy fields  
there's silent peace that heals.  
And it echoes the grace  
of our Savior's embrace,  
because Hope was born this night.  
*Glory to God in the highest.  
Peace on earth, goodwill toward all.  
Let all of the world sing the chorus of joy,  
because Hope was born this night.*

I can hear the Christmas bells ring,  
as softly a church choir sings.  
It's the song used to praise the Ancient of days,  
when Hope was born this night.  
There are angels in this place,  
and my heart resounded the praise.  
Like a shepherd so scared, I'll rejoice and declare  
that Hope was born this night. *{Chorus}*

Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!  
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! *{Chorus Twice}*  
TAG: I know Hope was born this night,  
because Christ was born this night.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

### A Christmas Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen

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.

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It goes like this, he lived, he died  
upon the cross was crucified,  
And ev'ry breath 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.*

## ~ The Lighting of the Advent Candle ~

On this third Sunday of Advent,  
we pray for peace in our relationships.  
God of Joy, we turn to you in prayer.  
As families and friends gather for the holiday season,  
our collective stress level often reaches a tragic peak.  
Domestic violence and substance abuse  
may be a problem again this season.  
The very people we claim to love  
can at the same time be the source of our pain.  
Help us to seek your serenity

Here these words from Matthew

**Lesson:** *Matthew 11:2-11* Rob Linder, reader

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

May this scripture inspire us all...

§ to walk in the way that leads to life.

Dear God,

In the height of our Advent walk,  
grant us the courage to experience joy.  
Joy in the face of apathy,  
Joy in the face of sorrow,  
Joy in the face of uncertainty. Amen.

## Bring Joy

We pray for joy, God, in our homes,  
where we have hurt those nearest.  
Renew each will, and help us still  
to reconcile our dearest.

*Bring joy to every mind,  
and heal all wounded humankind.  
Bring joy to every heart,  
as people of one Maker.*

## Kid's Time

### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Charles Wesley, 1744 / Rowland H. Prichard, 1830*

Congregational Hymn

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art.  
Dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

## Prayers of the People

## Youth Group

Gracious God,

How we wish we could be like those  
who saw the coming of the Christ Child,  
those who dropped all that they were doing  
and traveled to worship the coming  
of God's love into this world.

How we wish we could be like those  
who cared for God in infant vulnerability;  
who cuddled and comforted the growing child,  
that he might know love and safety.

And yet, merciful God,

we must recognize all the times  
we are more like Herod.

Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions,  
find our own need for control more compelling  
than the needs of others for health and safety.

Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege,  
rather than standing up  
for the rights of the oppressed.

Whenever we are complicit

in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit,  
or power, or because we fear to know,  
and to change, the injustices of this world.

Loving God,

we confess our sins against you and one another,  
and pray that you will fill us with your light,

that we may live our lives as true disciples  
in your name, without counting the cost.

And yet we know that God's light is present in this world.  
Present in the Christ child,  
born to lead us out of darkness.  
Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.  
God's light is in the world,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.  
God's grace is in the world,  
and our missteps will not overcome it.  
We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

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

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Sung Responsively*

### **Songs of Joy**

*Joseph M. Martin, 2009*  
Chancel Choir Anthem

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,**  
**born to set Thy people free,**  
**From our fears and sins release us,**  
**Let us find our rest in Thee.**  
**Israel's strength and consolation,**  
**hope of all the earth Thou art;**  
**Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart,**  
**Joy of every longing heart.**

**Lord of the nations, King of all creation,**  
**"God with us," Emmanuel.**  
**Lord, You are holy. Lord, You are worthy.**  
**Come to our world with us to dwell.**

**Lord of the nations, Lord of creation,**  
**Come, now and set your people free.**  
**Lord, Jesus come!**

**Born your people to deliver,**  
**born a child, and yet a King.**  
**Born to reign in us forever,**  
**now Thy gracious kingdom bring.**  
**By Thine own eternal Spirit**  
**rule in all our hearts alone.**  
**By Thine all sufficient merit,**  
**raise us to Thy glorious throne,**  
**Raise us to Thy glorious throne!**

**Prayer for Our Pastor**

**Rob Linder**

**Sermon**

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

### **When the King Shall Come Again**

*Christopher Idle, 1982 / Piae Cantiones, 1582*  
Congregational Hymn

**When the King shall come again,**  
**all His pow'r revealing,**  
**splendor shall announce His reign,**  
**life and joy and healing;**  
**earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated;**  
**this is God's redemption day longingly awaited.**

**In the desert trees take root, fresh from His creation;**  
**plants and flow'rs and sweetest fruit**  
**join the celebration;**  
**rivers spring up from the earth,**

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barren lands adorning;  
valleys, this is your rebirth;  
mountains greet the morning!

Strengthen feeble hands and knees,  
fainting hearts be cheerful!  
God, who comes for such as these,  
seeks and saves the fearful;  
deaf ears, hear the silent tongues  
sing away their weeping;  
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones  
walking, running, leaping.

There God's highway shall be seen  
where no roaring lion,  
nothing evil or unclean walks the road to Zion;  
ransomed people, homeward bound,  
all your praises voicing,  
see your Lord with glory crowned;  
share in his rejoicing!

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

### **We Have a Savior**

*Renban Morgan & Ben Glover ©2012 Hillsong Music Publishing  
Praise Team*

A child has been given, the King of our freedom.  
Sing for the light has come, this is Christmas.  
Come and adore Him and bring gifts before Him.  
Joy to the world, worship the Son, this is Christmas.

*This is Jesus, Emmanuel here with us.  
Tell all the world, we have a Savior,  
we have a Savior.  
We are no longer lost  
'cause He has come down for us.  
We have a Savior, we have a Savior.*

Sing with the angels and lift up your voices.  
Join in the song of hope, this is Christmas. {Refrain}

His love will reign forever,  
His love will reign forever,  
His love will reign forever.  
His love will reign forever,  
His love will reign forever,  
His love will reign forever. {Refrain}

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

Jesus & Human Dignity  
Advent-Christmas Series



# Joys and Concerns for your prayers this Week of December 14, 2025

## **SYMPATHY**

To Reber Whitner and Stephanie Manos, family and friends, on the death of Reber'

## **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

\*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

\*Marv Malone

Bob Mazur

Josh Mikalouski

\*Dotti Outland

Perry James Psaros

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\*Ron Paxton  
\*Sandy & Glenn Pierce  
Quinn Family  
\*Janene Riley-Spillane-Surgery  
\*Bill Robbins  
Bill Roche  
Emmalea Ruff  
John Ruff  
\*John Sadler  
Jean Safrit  
\*Carl Schloegel  
\*Loretta Smith  
Owen Thompson  
Beth 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  
\*Irene & Tom Safrit  
Fred and Sharyn Smith  
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

**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](#)