



# EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

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

Sunday, December 21, 2025

## DREAMING OF ACCEPTANCE

Matthew 1:18-25

December 21, 2025

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* ~

**Light of the World**

*Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, & Paul Mabury*

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The world waits for a miracle,  
the heart longs for a little bit of hope,  
O come, o come, Emmanuel.

A child prays for peace on earth,  
and she's callin' out from a sea of hurt,  
O come, o come, Emmanuel.

*And can you hear the angels singing...*

*Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.*

*Glo-o-ry the light of the world is here.*

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother,  
a baby's cry is the sound of love,  
come down, come down, Emmanuel.

He is the song for the suffering,  
He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace has come,  
He has come, Emmanuel, oh...

*{Chorus 2x}*

For all who wait, for all who hunger,  
for all who've prayed, for all who wonder.  
Behold your King, behold Messiah,  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

*Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.*

*Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.*

*Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.*

Behold your King, behold Messiah,  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

The world waits for a miracle,  
the heart longs for a little bit of hope,  
O come, o come, Emmanuel.

**We Have a Savior**

*Reuben 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}*

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

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## It's Christmas

*Traditional Carols / Arranged by Chris Tomlin*

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!

## ~ The Lighting of the Advent Candle ~

It is the night of the solstice, it is the death of darkness.

For half the year light has been slipping away  
but now - no further. It shall return.

And in the hearing of the darkness the light says:  
“Arise! Shine! For your light has come,  
the promise frees itself from the frost  
and long nights.”

The light says: “The people who have walked in darkness  
have seen a great light!”

The light says: “For unto you a child is born  
unto you a son is given!”

This is a darkness greater than any night  
and the light more than the day.

Right in the heart of the deeper, human darkness  
a manger is ready as the age of brightness returns.

The advent promise has found a place  
to chase the darkness and make room for the light.

Listen to these words from the Gospel of Matthew:

**Lesson:** *Matthew 1:18-25*      Aleta Thompson, reader

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

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“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

May this scripture inspire us all...

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

Dear God,

As our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion,  
grant us the courage to share your love.

Love for the unexpected challenge,

Love for the vulnerable one.

Love for the presence of God. Amen.

**Bring Love**

We pray for love, God, in our souls.

Oh, heal our selfish blindness!

God, touch each heart and help us start  
to love each person with kindness.

*Bring love to every mind,*

*and heal all wounded humankind.*

*Bring love to every heart,*

*as people of one Maker.*

**Kid's Time**

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

*Charles Wesley, 1739 / Felix Mendelssohn, 1840*

Congregational Carol

**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!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;**

**Christ, the everlasting Lord;**

**late in time behold Him come,**

**offspring of a virgin’s womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead See;**

**hail th’ incarnate Deity,**

**pleased with us in flesh to dwell,**

**Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,**

**“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**

**Hail the Sun of Righteousness!**

**Light and life to all He brings,**

**risen with healing in His wings.**

**Mild He lays His glory by,**

**born that we no more may die,**

**born to raise us from the earth,**

**born to give us second birth.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,**

**“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**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*

### **Still, Still, Still**

*Austrian Carol / Marilyn & Alan Bergman, 1963*

Epworth Bell Choir

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,  
Holy Star its vigil keeping.  
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you,  
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number  
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

*Arranged by Joseph M. Martin*

Chancel Choir Anthem

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?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

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

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Prayer for Our Pastor**

Aleta Thompson

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

### **Angels from the Realms of Glory**

*James Montgomery, 1816 / Henry T. Smart, 1867*

Congregational Carol

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing Your flight o'er all the earth.  
Ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er Your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light:

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*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave Your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar.  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen His natal star:

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

### Noel

*Matt Redman, Ed Cash, & Chris Tomlin ©2015 ThankYou Music  
Praise Team / Chancel Choir / Bell Choir*

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.  
*Nöel, nöel. Come and see what God has done.  
Nöel, nöel. The story of amazing love,  
the light of the world given for us, Nöel.*  
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}*

Alter Flowers were donated by David Hagelin and  
Jeff McGuire In Memory of David's Husband,  
Andy Brangenberg.

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 21, 2025

## **SYMPATHY**

To family and friends of Jo Ann Merrick who passed away  
December 7.

## **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

Ellen McKeon

Josh Mikalowski

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  
\*Irene & Tom 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](#)