



# EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

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

Thursday, April 2, 2026



Welcome to Epworth Worship  
Thursday 7:00 pm  
in-person and online

7:00 pm [Blended Worship Order](#)  
[Calendar](#)  
[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)



*As candles are lighted:*

L: Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Because God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Tonight we come to experience and remember what was broken on these nights long ago: bread...trust...flesh...garments...temple veil...and tomb. We come to turn our tears into balm.

**Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

## What Wondrous Love Is This

*American Folk Hymn*

What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of life  
to lay aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
to lay aside His crown for my soul.

And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on.

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 this 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 following  
the commandment of our Lord  
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 / The Southern Harmony, 1835*

**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}**

## **First Lesson**

*Matthew 26:6-13*

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

**Reflection:** When have you been heartbroken  
and poured out your love on another?  
Who has poured out love upon you along your journey?  
**The First Anointing:** Forehead

## **The Servant Song**

*Richard Gillard, 1977 / Benjamin Franklin White, 1844*

**We are travelers on a journey,  
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,**

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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.

## Second Lesson

*Matthew 26:17-23*

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying "Where do you want us to make the preparation for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the disciples, and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me."

**Reflection:** Where do you see broken trust in our world? When has someone broken your trust?

When have you broken someone else's trust?

**The Second Anointing:** Back of hand

## Bind Us Together

*Bob Gillman, 1977*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
with cords that cannot be broken.*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together,  
Lord, bind us together in love.*

**There is only one God, there is only one King;**

**There is only one body, that is why we sing.**

*{Refrain}*

## Third Lesson

*Matthew 27:55-61*

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

**Reflection:** What needs to die in you to make room for the resurrection?

What things do we no longer need that may be preventing our healing?

**The Third Anointing:** Palm of hand

## Take My Life, and Let It Be

Frances R. Havergal, 1873 / Louis J. F. Hérold, 1839

**Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to Thee.**

**Take my moments and my days;**

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let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for Thee.

## Invitation to the Table

### For Everyone Born

*Shirley Erena Murray, 1998 / Brian Mann, 1998*

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. *{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!**

Christ has chosen you.

§ and you have also been chosen.

I have done nothing to deserve it,

§ neither have we.

I am so thankful that God stooped down to make me clean

§ We are refreshed, welcomed, and filled with joy.

You are the essence of compassion and mercy.

You prize humility as the essence of Your divine glory.

You embrace service not as a mark of shame but one of the greatest honor. You must laugh at us, as we scramble after the illusion of power and prestige. Our anger must seem silly to You and our quest for vengeance our greatest folly. You have shown us Your way. You who are first placed yourself last for our sake and challenge us to try it for ourselves. We get angry when life does not go our way, and we quit and slink away,

Yet You never leave. You never forsake us. You never give up on us. You always stay. So as we come to our senses, we fall on our knees and turn back to You and find You smiling and Your arms are held wide open to us. You wipe the tears from our eyes and wash the dust from our feet.

We love you! With our voices we praise You. With our compassion and forgiveness we worship You. With our generosity and humility we proclaim Your glory, joining with all who place their crowns at Your feet, proclaiming:

**§ You're always worthy  
Receiving glory, honor  
For Your matchless power.**

You are worthy and so is Jesus through whom You created all things. Jesus was patient and kind.

Jesus lived a life of humility. Jesus did not insist on his own way, but always ready to wipe the dust off his feet and move on. Jesus did not keep a record of wrongs but instead turned the other cheek and forgave those who did not realized what they were doing.

Even though he was God, Jesus left the seat of honor and washed the disciples' feet. All Christ asks is that we love others as he has loved us.

With ancient words of thanksgiving, Jesus blessed and broke the bread of Passover. Bread set aside to remember those still facing oppression.

Sharing with everyone, Jesus said: "Take, eat, this is my body broken and given for you." All Christ asks is that we love others as he has loved us.

With ancient words of thanksgiving, Jesus blessed and lifted the cup of Passover wine. Wine set aside to remember the painful reality of sin. Sharing with everyone, Jesus said: "Drink all of you, for this is the cup of my blood, poured out in gratitude for God's eternal covenant of grace, granting forgiveness not just for your sins, but for the sins of the entire world."

All Christ asks is that we love others as he has loved us.

We do want to love as Christ loved. We want to live humbly, generously, full of mercy and compassion. It is this Christ we declare with this profound mystery of our faith:

**§ Christ lived with humility. Christ dies with forgiveness.  
Christ comes again in compassion.**

Reparative Justice, Expansive Mercy, drench these gifts of bread and wine, allowing them to become for us the body and blood of Christ. Reparative Justice, Expansive Mercy, drench the gift of our lives: our humility, our generosity, our compassion, allowing them to become for the world  
Your church, the living body of Christ.

Reparative Justice, Expansive Mercy, be with us, gathered here this holy night. Humble our hearts so we might serve you. Enlighten our minds that we might feel the thrill of questions.

We ask for the sake of ourselves and others whom Christ loves, whom the Holy Spirit woos, whom the Creator is working tirelessly for the salvation of all.

Accept our worship and our praise for Your glory. **Amen.**

Now I invite you to pray as Jesus taught us:

### **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.**

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## **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,

Anointed to care for our community,

Anointed with the balm of Gilead for healing and forgiveness to share with all,

And anointed with the power of hope in the face of

death, with the love and blessing of God, Source,

Savior, and Sustainer of Life.

Amen.

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

*Communion Liturgy adapted from Transforming Com-  
munion, by Rev. Mary Johnson*

## **Holy Week Schedule**

**Good Friday, April 3**

**7:00 p.m.**

## **Easter Sunday Schedule**

**Easter Sunday, April 5**

**Unified Worship**

**10:00 a.m.**

Annual Worship Theme  
February 18 - April 5, 2026

**Forgiveness & Reconciliation**



# 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—[Murray Archibald](#)

Lay Leader—[Todd Popham](#)

Finance Chair—[David Hagelin](#)

Staff-Parish Relations Chair—[Dan Hoffman](#)

Board of Trustees Chair—[Tom Lewis](#)

Scheduling/Rentals & DOVs: [Tammy Zhang](#)

### 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](#)