



EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH

Worship Order, Announcements & Prayers
Epworth.faith

Friday, April 3, 2026



Welcome to Epworth Worship
Friday 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



Good Friday Tenebrae (Year A)

This Good Friday, we continue our Holy Week journey through our Lord's darkest of days as we experience the Passion of Jesus Christ. Our scripture readings guide us through Christ's suffering – betrayal, denial, aloneness, accusation, suffering, crucifixion, and death.

~ *We Gather in Worship* ~

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Gather round, we have a story to tell of one who reached inside himself and took a handful of love, like a pile of stardust, and said: This is for you. It is all you need, it is all you will ever need. There is enough here to change the whole world. Take it.

Many laughed at him, mocked him, and ignored the invitation. But some dared to take it, and those who did noticed something about this love. They found they could do what the gift-giver could do. They could stand with the lost, welcome the traveler, eat with the hungry.

They found themselves doing what the man first did to them: Give something of themselves to others.

They became like the man - offering themselves, and as they offered themselves others took the invitation.

Many still do. Many still trust.

It is enough to change the whole world.

A Solemn Invitation

Joseph M. Martin, 2010

Come and hear. Come and hear.

**Find words of hope
and let your spirit be restored.**

Come and hear. Come and hear.

**Come to the shadows
in remembrance of the Lord.**

Come and hear. Come and hear.

Silence your spirit in the stillness of this place.

Come and hear. Come and hear.

**Listen in wonder
as you contemplate God's grace.**

**Come and mourn with me awhile,
earthly burdens lay aside.**

Listen to the words of life.

Come, in remembrance of the Lord.

Come and remember the Lord.

Come and hear. Come and hear.

**Hear words of hope
and let your spirit be restored.**

Come and hear. Come and hear.

**Come to the shadows
in remembrance of the Lord.**

Come and remember the Lord.

Come and hear. Come and hear.

I. The Shadow of Betrayal

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.”

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

“What will you give me if I betray him to you?”

They paid him thirty pieces of silver.

And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Disciples Gathered Gladly

Joy F. Patterson, 2008 / Welsh tune, 19th c.

**Disciples gathered gladly to share the Seder meal;
they came all unsuspecting
the grief they soon would feel.
Their Lord began to tell them
His hour of death was near;
the one who would betray Him
could see His pathway clear.**

**Then as they sat at supper
He blessed and broke the bread.
“This is my body broken for love of you,” He said.
“Take each of you a portion,
remembering when you do,
as often as you eat it, my life laid down for you.”**

**And when the meal was finished,
He poured a cup of wine.
“This cup is the new covenant
and Your salvation’s sign.”
Then after their communion they sang a hymn to God
as, walking to the garden,
they pondered Jesus’ words.**

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations 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 twelve; 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. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?”

He replied, “You have said so.”

What Wondrous Love

*American folk tune / Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski
Epworth Bell Choir*

**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.**

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme
I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.

II. The Shadow of Denial

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter.

Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

In Dark Gethsemane

Dana Mengel, 2001

**In dark Gethsemane, Jesus prayed so faithfully:
"Abba, Father, let this cup pass from me."**

**In the garden Jesus prayed:
"Abba, Father, take this cup.
However, not my will, but Thine be done."**

**Come to dark Gethsemane
for one hour now with me,
And share the Savior's grief and agony.**

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated.

And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Go to Dark Gethsemane

James Montgomery, 1820 / Richard Redhead, 1853

See him at the judgment hall, beaten,
bound, reviled, arraigned.
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss.
Learn of Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

III. The Shadow of Accusation

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.

Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death.

Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love

Russell A. Kane & Allan Robert Petker, 1986

Based on Gabriel Faure's Pavane

Lamb of God, what wondrous love,
what wondrous love, O my soul.
Love, such love, that Thou shouldst die,
that Thou, for me, shouldst die.

Lord of Grace, what matchless love,
what matchless love, O my soul.
Son of God, Thou loving sacrifice,
Thou loving sacrifice for me.

Here, O Lord, am I fearful, sinful, man,
Guilty and condemned, Thy death is surely mine.

Cross of God, I would to turn away,
yet Love it bids me stay, O my soul.
Can it be the very death I fear
is that which draws me near, Lord, to Thee?
Lamb of God, Thou died for me.
Lamb of God, Thou died for me.
Lamb of God, what wondrous love.

IV. The Shadow of Suffering

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting

some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

To Mock Your Reign

Fred Pratt Green / Lloyd Larson, 1973

**To mock Your reign, O dearest Lord,
they made a crown of thorns;
set you with taunts along that road
from which no one returns.**

**They could not know, as we do now,
how glorious is that crown;
that thorns would flower upon Your brow,
Your sorrows heal our own.**

**In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord,
they snatched a purple cloak;
Your passion turned, for all they cared,
into a soldier's joke.**

**They could not know, as we do now,
that though we merit blame,
you will Your robe of mercy throw
around our naked shame.**

**A sceptered reed, O patient Lord,
they thrust into Your hand,
and acted out their grim charade
to its appointed end.
They could not know, as we do now,
though empires rise and fall,
Your kingdom shall not cease to grow
till love embraces all.**

V. The Shadow of Crucifixion

After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (*which means Place of a Skull*), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

Broken For You

Kathleen Wissinger, 2001

Epworth Bell Choir

VI. The Shadow of Death

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

God So Loved

Benjamin Harlan / John Stainer, 1887

**God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in Him
should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**For God sent not His Son
into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.**

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

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](#)