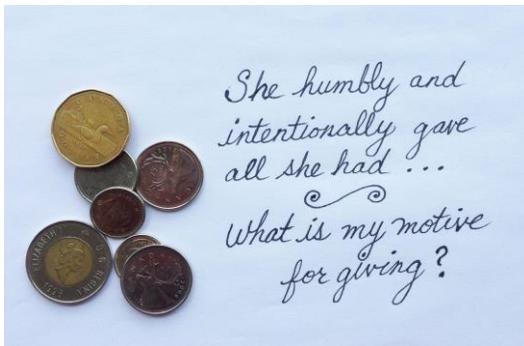


Worship Celebration: April 15, 2018
 EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

9:15 a.m. (CONTEMPORARY)
 3rd Sunday of Easter (Year B)



Welcome to Epworth! Today is Celebration Sunday for our Imagine the Possibilities Campaign – and we are excited to share with you the amazing generosity of our congregation so far in our campaign. Both of our scripture lessons today tell stories of God’s people making a sacrifice to show their gratitude to God. From King David to the widow who gave all she had – the Bible tells us that living the Christian life is about sacrifice and generosity. The stories that our members told on Ministry Sunday March 18, of the difference that God and this church had made in

their lives, inspire us to respond with gratitude to God. The testimonies from scripture and our own congregation fill us with hope for the possibilities God can work through us when we trust and invest in God’s work and ministry. We are blessed by your presence today – be sure and stay for a time of food and fellowship after worship! We are celebrating God’s goodness in our lives and in our church.

EPWORTH
 a United Methodist Church
 19285 Holland Glade Road
 Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
 (302) 227-7743 ✚ www.eumcrb.org



VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community
MISSION: Inviting All, Finding Your Place, Connecting to God, Demonstrating Care

☞ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☞

Praise Gathering

GREATER

Bring your tired and bring your shame, bring your guilt and bring your pain.
 Don't you know that's not your name? You will always be much more to me.
 And every day I wrestle with the voices that keep telling me I'm not right,
 but that's all right.

'Cause I hear a voice, and He calls me redeemed when others say I'll never be enough.
And greater is the One living inside of me than he who is living in the world. In the world, in the world.
And greater is the One living inside of me than he who is living in the world.

Bring your doubts and bring your fears, bring your hurt and bring your tears.
 There'll be no condemnation here; you are holy, righteous and redeemed.
 And every time I fall there'll be those who will call me a mistake. Well, that's okay. {Refrain}

-Instrumental-

(Bridge) *There'll be days I lose the battle, Grace says that it doesn't matter
'cause the cross already won the war.*

*I am learning to run freely, understanding just how He sees me,
and it makes me love Him more and more. (repeat) {Refrain} (bridge)*

(Tag) God is greater than he who is living in the world. ¹

Greeting, Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Glenn

Include video but not reveal

*Passing the Peace

*Singing in Praise

BUILD YOUR KINGDOM HERE

Come set Your rule and reign in our hearts again.

Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.

Come set our hearts ablaze with hope, like wildfire in our very souls;

Holy Spirit come invade us now.

We are Your church; We need Your pow'r in us.

We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;

Refuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize.

To see the captives' hearts released; The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.

We lay down our lives for heaven's cause. We are Your church; We pray, revive this earth.

Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.

Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.

Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.

Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r, reaching the near and far.

No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts.

You made us for much more than this; Awake the kingdom seed in us.

Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.

We are Your church; We are the hope on earth. (*refrain 2X*) ²

Children's Celebration

✠ WE PREPARE FOR THE WORD ✠

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You. (*repeat*)

And If I'm Holy, As You are Holy, someday I'll see You, face to face.

Melt and mold me, into Your Image, and take me to Your Holy Place.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You. ³

☞ We Engage the Word ☛

Lesson

I Chronicles 29:1-6, 9-18 (The Message)

Arin Martin

Then David the king addressed the congregation: “My son Solomon was singled out and chosen by God to do this.

But he’s young and untested and the work is huge—this is not just a place for people to meet each other, but a house for GOD to meet us.

I’ve done my best to get everything together for building this house for my God, all the materials necessary: gold, silver, bronze, iron, lumber, precious and varicolored stones, and building stones—vast stockpiles.

Furthermore, because my heart is in this, in addition to and beyond what I have gathered, I’m turning over my personal fortune of gold and silver for making this place of worship for my God: 3,000 talents (about 113 tons) of gold—all from Ophir, the best—and 7,000 talents (214 tons) of silver for covering the walls of the buildings, and for the gold and silver work by craftsmen and artisans.

“And now, how about you?

Who among you is ready and willing to join in the giving?”

Ready and willing, the heads of families, leaders of the tribes of Israel, commanders and captains in the army, stewards of the king’s affairs, stepped forward and gave willingly.

And the people were full of a sense of celebration—all that giving! And all given willingly, freely!

King David was exuberant.

David blessed GOD in full view of the entire congregation:

Blessed are you, GOD of Israel, our father from of old and forever.

To you, O GOD, belong the greatness and the might, the glory, the victory, the majesty, the splendor; Yes!

Everything in heaven, everything on earth; the kingdom all yours!

You’ve raised yourself high over all.

Riches and glory come from you, you’re ruler over all; You hold strength and power in the palm of your hand to build up and strengthen all.

And here we are, O God, our God, giving thanks to you, praising your splendid Name.

“But me—who am I, and who are these my people, that we should presume to be giving something to you?

Everything comes from you; all we’re doing is giving back what we’ve been given from your generous hand.

As far as you’re concerned, we’re homeless, shiftless wanderers like our ancestors, our lives mere shadows, hardly anything to us.

GOD, our God, all these materials—these piles of stuff for building a house of worship for you, honoring your Holy Name—it all came from you!

It was all yours in the first place!

I know, dear God, that you care nothing for the surface—you want *us*, our true selves—and so I have given from the heart, honestly and happily.

And now see all these people doing the same, giving freely, willingly—what a joy!

***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 21:1-4

Arin Martin

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.

He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”

Brothers and Sisters,

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

SThanks be to God

Celebrating Generosity

Campaign Chairs

Sermon

Stories of Generosity and Sacrifice

Rev. Vicky Starnes

✠ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ✠

Song of Response

NO TURNING BACK

I will follow You. I will follow You.

No turning back, no turning back, no turning back, no turning back.

This is my heart cry: Though none go with me, the cross before me, the world behind me.

This is my heart cry: Though none go with me, the cross before me, the world behind me.

I will follow You. (I have decided, I have decided.) I will follow You. (I have decided.)

No turning back, no turning back, no turning back, no turning back.

This is my anthem: My life for Your fame, my ev'ry move bring glory to Your name.

This is my anthem: My life for Your fame, my ev'ry move bring glory to Your name. {Refrain}

The cross before me, the world behind me; I will follow, I will follow. {4X}

TAG: No turning back, no turning back, no turning back, no turning back. {2X} ⁴

Joys & Concerns

Glenn

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

(sung responsively)

FWS 2278

Invitation to Offering ~ Please sign the blue Connections Pad and pass it down the row.

Rev. Zip Long

Offerings are given through cash and check, on-line giving, Texting at 302-488-0038

and by using our Giving Kiosk in the main lobby. There are Giving Cards in the pews to place in the plate, if you wish

Bless your heart for supporting our ministries!

REDEEMED

Seems like all I could see was the struggle. Haunted by ghosts that lived in my past.

Bound up in shackles of all my failures, wond'rin': how long is this gonna last?

Then you looked at this pris'ner and say to me "Son,
stop fighting a fight that's already been won."

(1) *I am redeemed. You've set me free.*

*So I'll shake off these heavy chains and wipe away ev'ry stain.
Now I'm not who I used to be. I am redeemed. I am redeemed.*

All my life I have been called "unworthy,"
named by the voice of my shame and regret.
But when I hear You whisper, "Child, lift up your head,"
I remember, O God, You're not done with me yet.

(2) *I am redeemed. You set me free.*

*So I'll shake off these heavy chains and wipe away ev'ry stain
Now I'm not who I used to be.*

(Bridge) Because I don't have to be the old man inside of me,
'cause his day is long dead and gone.
Because I've got a new name, a new life, I'm not the same.
And the hope that will carry me home:

(3) *I am redeemed. You set me free.*

*So I shake off these heavy chains, and wipe away ev'ry stain, 'cause I'm not who I used to be.
I am redeemed. You set me free.
So I'll shake off these heavy chains and wipe away ev'ry stain.
Now I'm not who I used to be. O God, I'm not who I used to be.
Jesus, I'm not who I used to be, 'cause I am redeemed. Thank God, redeemed⁵*

☞ We Are Sent into the World ☞

Gratitude for Leadership

*Benediction

Vicky

*Sending Song

ALL THE PEOPLE SAID AMEN

You are not alone if you are lonely.
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.
We are all the same, in need of mercy, to be forgiven and be free.
It's all you get to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need.

*And all the people said Amen. Whoa And all the people said Amen.
Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never ends.
And all the people said Amen.*

If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter.
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.
We're all broken, but we're all in this together.

God knows we stumble and fall,
And He so loved the world, He sent his son to save us all. {Refrain}

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart.
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.
Blessed are the people hungry for another start,
For theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God. {Refrain 2x}

TAG: Yeah! And all the people said Amen. ⁶

**Please stand as you are able.*

Bulletins for the month of April are sponsored in memory of Loved Ones by Linda Miniscalco & Jeanne Drake.

Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kenny's mom, Dottie Mahan, by Kenny Mahan & Glen Pruitt.

Stephen Ministers, wearing blue name badges, will be at each service if anyone in the Epworth family wants to talk about any life challenges.

The **special Peace Candle on the Chancel** shines to remind us of God's desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God's peacemakers.

DVD and Broadcast Ministries: All Church Service at Epworth are presented using multimedia technology. The screens above the Chancel area are used for text, videos, photographs and live cameras. Each service is digitally recorded for archive purposes as well as for distribution to our homebound members on DVD. These recording may also be broadcast or archived on our web page. Therefore, you may, at any time, be seen and recorded on camera - anywhere throughout the Sanctuary.

Acolyte Tom Vyas

Sound Ken Mahan, Sharon Wert, Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman

Ushers Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee

Usher Coordinator – Worship Pathway:

9:30: Stu & Linda Bruce, Kevin Reagan, Loretta Mahan, Lori Watson, Holly Ostendorf

Worship Resources

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¹ *Greater:* MercyMe ©2000-2015 AZLyrics.com.

² *Build Your Kingdom Here:* Rend Collective Experiment ©2011 Thankyou Music.

³ *Sanctuary:* John Thompson & Randy Scruggs ©1996 Whole Armor/Full Armor.

⁴ *No Turning Back:* Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher & Jason Ingram ©2012 Sixsteps Songs

⁵ *Redeemed:* Benji Cowart, Michael Weaver ©2011 Word Music, LLC, Weave Country

⁶ *All the People Said Amen:* ©2015 Matt Maher, Paul Moak and Trevor Morgan.

Ministers: The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Gwen Osborne

Senior Pastor: Rev. Vicky Starnes ... *Associate Pastor:* Rev. Glenn Catley

Director of Music Ministries: Doug Yetter ... *Accompanist:* Linda Hess...*Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon

Communications & Technologies Manager: Kenneth Mahan ... *Office Manager:* Darlene Ford

Special Projects: Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Diana Young ... *Sound Tech:* Josh Megee

Preschool Director: Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford ... *Interim Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson

Custodian: Wanda Hudson ... *Maintenance:* Mike Harrigan



EPWORTH
REHOBOTH BEACH
a United Methodist Church
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

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Large-Print Bulletins &
Hearing Assist Devices are Available
Please see an Usher for assistance



American Sign
Language
at 9:15 Service



Affiliated with other
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greater inclusiveness
through the
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Network
www.RMNetwork.org

worship@epworth
7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary
