

Worship Celebration: July 8, 2018
 EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

9:15 a.m. (CONTEMPORARY)
 7th Sunday after Pentecost (Year B)



All year, but especially in the summer, people visit national and state parks to explore and view amazing scenes in nature. Most of the beautiful sights like these are referenced in the Bible, as a natural occurrence – gardens, deserts, oceans, rivers and mountains. During the month of July, we are doing some nature exploration ourselves, as we look at 4 different natural wonders, using scripture as our guide. One

of our familiar hymns – This is My Father’s World provides the title – “All nature sings and round me rings, the music of the spheres!” Today we go to the gardens and forests and trees – to remember where Bible writers used those images to teach us about living in God’s trust and care. Welcome to Epworth on this summer day! We are blessed by your presence.

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

HEAR OUR PRAISES

May our homes be filled with dancing, may our streets be filled with joy;
 May injustice bow to Jesus as the people turn to pray.

From the mountain to the valley, hear our praises rise to You;
From the heavens to the nations, hear our singing fill the air.

May the light shine in the darkness as we walk before the cross;
 May Your glory fill the whole earth as the water o’er the seas. (*refrain – 2x*)¹

Greeting, Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Todd

***Passing the Peace**

***Singing in Praise**

OPEN UP THE HEAVENS

We waited for this day, we’re gathered in Your name, calling out to you.
 Your glory like a fire, awakening desire, will burn our hearts with truth.

You're the reason we're here. You're the reason we're singing.

Open up the heavens; we wanna see You.

Open up the floodgates, a mighty river flowing from Your heart, filling ev'ry part of our praise.

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face, we're looking to the sky.
Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now. Lord, unveil our eyes.

You're the reason we're here. You're the reason we're singing. *(Chorus 2X)*

Show us, show us Your glory. Show us, show us Your power.

Show us, show us Your glory, Lord. *(repeat)*

Into CHORUS: We wanna see You, we wanna see You! *(Chorus 2X)*

TAG: We sing, sing! ²

Children's Celebration

Rev. Todd Shultz

✠ WE PREPARE FOR THE WORD ✠

OUR GOD

Water You turned into wine, opened the eyes of the blind.

There's no one like You, none like You.

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise.

There's no one like You, none like You

Our God is greater, our God is stronger; God, You are higher than any other.

Our God is healer, awesome in power our God, our God.

✠ We Engage the Word ✠

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-13 (The Message)

Linda Bruce

“Hey there! All who are thirsty, come to the water!

Are you penniless?

Come anyway—buy and eat!

Come, buy your drinks, buy wine and milk.

Buy without money—everything's free!

Why do you spend your money on junk food, your hard-earned cash on cotton candy?

Listen to me, listen well: Eat only the best, fill yourself with only the finest.

Pay attention, come close now, listen carefully to my life-giving, life-nourishing words.

I'm making a lasting covenant commitment with you, the same that I made with David: sure,
solid, enduring love.

I set him up as a witness to the nations, made him a prince and leader of the nations, and now

I'm doing it to you:

You'll summon nations you've never heard of, and nations who've never heard of you will

come running to you because of me, your GOD, because The Holy of Israel has honored you.”

Seek GOD while he's here to be found, pray to him while he's close at hand.

Let the wicked abandon their way of life and the evil their way of thinking.
Let them come back to GOD, who is merciful, come back to our God, who is lavish with forgiveness.

“I don’t think the way you think.
The way you work isn’t the way I work.”

GOD’s Decree.

“For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

Just as rain and snow descend from the skies and don’t go back until they’ve watered the earth, doing their work of making things grow and blossom, producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry, so will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed.

They’ll do the work I sent them to do, they’ll complete the assignment I gave them.

“So you’ll go out in joy, you’ll be led into a whole and complete life.

The mountains and hills will lead the parade, bursting with song.

All the trees of the forest will join the procession, exuberant with applause.

No more thistles, but giant sequoias, no more thornbushes, but stately pines—Monuments to me, to GOD, living and lasting evidence of GOD.”

New Testament Lesson

Revelation 21:1-3, 22:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.

On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there any more.

But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Brothers and Sisters,

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

§Thanks be to God

OUR GOD (CONT)

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise.

There's no one like You, none like You

*Our God is greater, our God is stronger; God, You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer, awesome in power our God, our God. (Chorus 2X)*

(Bridge) And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us, then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us, then what could stand against?
Then what could stand against? (*refrain 2X*) (*bridge*)

(Tag) What could stand against?³

Sermon

All Nature Sings: Gardens and Trees

Rev. Vicky Starnes

☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞

Song of Response

HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; {*Refrain*}⁴

Joys & Concerns

Todd

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.*

Vicky

*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!*

THE RIVER IS HERE

Down the mountain the river flows and it brings refreshing wherever it goes.
Through the valleys and over the fields the river is rushing and the river is here.

*The river of God sets our feet a-dancing, the river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter, and we rejoice for the river is here.*

The river of God is teeming with life and all who touch it can be revived;
And those who linger on this river's shore

Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord. *{Refrain}*

Up to the mountain we love to go to find the presence of the Lord.
Along the banks of the river we run we dance with laughter giving praise to the Son.

{Refrain} We rejoice for the river is here. We rejoice for the river is here. ⁵

☞ We Are Sent into the World ☛

*Benediction

Vicky

*Sending Song

EVERY PRAISE

Ev'ry praise is to our God, ev'ry word of worship with one accord.

Ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise is to our God.

Sing Hallelujah to our God. Glory Hallelujah is due our God.

Ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise is to our God. *(repeat 2X)*

God, my Savior. God, my healer. God, my deliverer.

Yes, He is. Yes, He is. *(repeat)*

Yes, He is. Yes, he is.

Ev'ry praise is to our God. Ev'ry word of worship with one accord.

Ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise.

Ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise,

Ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise is to our God. *(repeat)*

Ev'ry praise is to our God. Ev'ry word of worship with one accord.

Ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise.

Ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise, ev'ry praise. ⁶

**Please stand as you are able.*

Bulletins for the month of July are sponsored in honor of Loved Ones by Fred & Sharyn Smith.

Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of husband and father, Roger, by Joyce Pool and Family.

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 Chase Reynolds

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

Ushers Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee

Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:

9:30: Reber Whitner, Stephanie Manos, Sam Sonnett, Joyce Pool, Annette Predeaux, James Floyd

Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

¹ *Hear Our Praises*: Reuben Morgan ©1998 Reuben Morgan/Hillsongs Publishing.

² *Open Up the Heavens*: Jason Ingram, Stuart Garrard, Andi Rozier, James MacDonald & Meredith Andrews ©2012 Song/ATV Music Publishing LLC

³ *Our God*: Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman ©2010 Thankyou Music

⁴ *How Great Thou Art!*: Stuart K. Hine ©1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc.

⁵ *The River Is Here*: Andy Park ©1994 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing Co.

⁶ *Every Praise*: Hezekiah Walker & John David Bratton ©2013 Li'l Eva Music, Luv Ki Music Publishing

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Vicky Starnes ... Associate Pastor: Rev. Todd Shultz

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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Hearing Assist Devices are Available
Please see an Usher for assistance



American Sign
Language
at 9:15 Service



Affiliated with other
United Methodists for
greater inclusiveness
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Network
www.RMNetwork.org

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