

Worship Celebration: April 8, 2018

EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

9:15 a.m. (CONTEMPORARY)

2nd Sunday of Easter (Year B)



Does it make any difference? Easter, I mean, does it make any difference that the tomb was empty? It did in the lives of those closest to Jesus and it still does make a difference today. Some call it the “Easter Effect” and, on the surface, it simply makes no sense at all. But by the fourth century, Christians accounted for nearly a half of the population of the Roman Empire, and there were no signs of that dramatic growth slowing down. How did the community of faith go from a depressed group of disciples hiding in a locked room to a movement that stretches worldwide in the name of Christ? The Roman Empire, built on the strength of its armies, no longer exists, but the Church, as the Body of Christ, is alive. Today, we explore this “Easter Effect” in preparation for a sermon series during the Easter season entitled, “And Are We Yet Alive.” Thank you for choosing to worship with us at Epworth Church, where all are welcome and together we explore faith and embrace community.

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

SAME POWER

I can see the waters raging at my feet. I can feel the breath of those surrounding me.
I can hear the sound of nations rising up. We will not be overtaken, we will not be overcome.

I can walk down this dark and painful road. I can face ev'ry fear of the unknown.
I can hear all God's children singing out. We will not be overtaken, we will not be overcome.

*The same power that rose Jesus from the grave,
the same power that commands the dead to wake lives in us, lives in us.
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks,
the same power that can calm a raging sea lives in us, lives in us. He lives in us, lives in us.*

We have hope that His promises are true. In His strength, there is nothing we can't do.
Yes, we know there are greater things in store.
We will not be overtaken, we will not be overcome. {Refrain}

Greater is He that is living in me; He's conquered our enemy.
No power of darkness, no weapon prevails; we stand here in victory, oh. *(Repeat)*
...in victory. Yeah! *{Refrain}* TAG: He lives in us. ¹

Greeting, Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Gwen

*Passing the Peace

Children's Celebration

Mickie McManamon

✠ THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT ✠

Introduction

Glenn

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at Baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

Lay Leader: I present these persons today for baptism:

Gwen

For Baptism:

Ray & Mary Veenema, Charlie Walter and Ayva Veenema

For Profession of Faith:

Ray & Mary Veenema Christine Briedis Woody Voelker

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

David

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

§ I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? § I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as our Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

§ I do.

Will you nurture these children in Christ's holy Church,
that by teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves,
to profess their faith openly and to lead a Christian life?

Glenn

§ I will.

To the congregation

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

David

§ We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons
now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Thanksgiving over the Water

Glenn

The Lord be with you.

§ And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: when nothing existed but chaos,

You swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah You saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,

You led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan

To the land which you promised.

§ Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your spirit.

He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection

and to make disciples of all nations.

§ Declare his works to the nations, His glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit to bless this gift of water

and all who receive it, to wash away their sin

and clothe them in righteousness throughout their life, that,

dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in His final victory,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. §

Amen.

*Baptism with Laying on of Hands – Raymond, Mary Catherine, Charlie Dean and Ayva Saskia

I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. §

Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you, Raymond, Mary Catherine, Christine Walker, Woody Patrick,

that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

§

Amen.

Commendation and Welcome to the congregation

Glenn, David & Gwen

Now it is our joy to welcome our new *sisters and brothers* in Christ.

§ Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as baptized members of the family of Christ.

Members of the household of God, we commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

§ We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Lighting of the Candle

(Glenn will take Charlie & Ayva into the congregation as Gwen helps their parents light a candle, have a member give them a blanket that has been knitted for them, and bring them back as we continue.)

*Singing in Praise

THE RIVER

I know a place, where we can go, to lay the troubles down eatin' your soul,
I know a place, where mercy flows, take the stains, make you whiter than snow.
Like a tide, it is risin' up, deep inside, a current that moves and makes it come alive.
Living water that brings the dead to life. Oh, oh.

We're goin' down to the river, down to the river, down to the river to pray, ay, ay.

Let's get washed by the water, washed by the water and rise up in amazing grace.

Let's go down, down, down, to the river. You will leave changed.

Let's go down, down, down, to the river. Never the same.

I've seen it move, in my own life, took me from dusty roads into paradise.
All of my dirt, all of my shame, drowned in the streams that've made me born again.
Like a tide, it is risin' up, deep inside, a current that moves and makes it come alive.
Living water that brings the dead to life. Oh, oh. {Chorus}

TAG 1: *Let's go down. (Oo... Oo... Oo...) Let's go down. (Oo... Oo... Oo...) Let's go down. {Chorus}*

TAG 2: *Oh, down. (Oo... Oo... Oo...) Gotta go, gotta go, gotta go down in amazing grace.*

Down, down, down to the river. Gotta go, gotta go, gotta go down in amazing grace. ²

☞ We Engage the Word ☛

*Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

JoAnn Merrick

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."

But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.

Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands.

Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Brothers and Sisters,

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

§ Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Easter Effect

Rev. Glenn Catley

✠ RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS ✠

Introduction

Glenn

Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at Baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

I now present these persons today for reception into Epworth:

New Members:

Gwen

at the 9:15 service: Ray & Mary Veenema
Woody Voelker

Sid & Belinda Harvey
Christine Briedis

at the 11:15 service: Frank & Susan Girdwood
Richard Hood

Eileen Thomas

To the new members

Glenn

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

§ I will.

To the congregation

David

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

§ We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons

now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

To the new members

Gwen

As a member of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? I will.

As a member of Epworth, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your witness, your gifts, and your service? I will.

*Commendation and Welcome *to the congregation*

Gwen, Glenn & David

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

§ We give thanks for all that God has already given you and welcome you in Christian love. As members with you in the body of Christ and in Epworth, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our witness, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞

Song of Welcome

LET'S WALK TOGETHER

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace.

Singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace.

All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome to this place.

Joys & Concerns

David

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

§ 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.

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

Gwen

*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!*

BECAUSE HE LIVES, AMEN

I believe in the Son, I believe in the Risen One. I believe I overcome by the power of His blood.

Amen! Amen! I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives.

Amen! Amen! Let my song join the one that never ends, because He lives.

I was dead in the grave, I was covered in sin and shame.

I heard mercy call my name. He rolled the stone away. {Refrain}

(Because He lives) I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, ev'ry fear is gone.

I know He holds my life, my future in His hands. {Refrain} TAG: Because He lives. ³

☞ We Are Sent into the World ☛

*Benediction

Glenn

*Sending Song

Old Church Choir

There's a revival and it's spreading like a wildfire in my heart.

A Sunday morning, hallelujah, and it's lasting all week long.

Can you hear it? Can you feel it? It's the rhythm of a gospel song.

Oh, once you choose it, you can't lose it. There ain't nothing, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy.

I've got an old church choir singing in my soul. I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.

I've got a heart overflowing 'cause I've been restored.

No, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy. No, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy.

When the valleys that I wander turn to mountains that I can't climb,

Oh, You are with me, You never leave me.

Oh, 'cause there ain't nothing, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy. {Refrain}

Clap your hands and stomp your feet 'til you find that gospel beat

'Cause He's all you'll ever need, all you'll ever need. (2X)

I've got an old church choir singing in my soul. I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.

I've got an old church choir singing in my soul. I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.

I've got a heart overflowing 'cause I've been restored.

There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy. No, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy.

Oh, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy. ⁴

**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 her husband, Ed, by Barbara Henriksen;
- In loving memory of Orville Myers, father of Diana Robertson, from Diana & Micheal Robertson;
- In honor of Arne Jerfsten on his birthday by Jeanne & Evan.

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 Arin Martin

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

Ushers Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee

Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:

9:30: Barbara Brittingham, Charles Mitchell, Nancy Bodner, Kim Scott, Sam & Tomas Vyas

Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

¹ *Same Power*: Jeremy Camp & Jason Ingram ©2015 Stolen Pride Music

² *The River*: Jordan Feliz, Goshua Silverberg & Colby Wedgeworth ©2015 CentricSongs.

³ *Because He Lives, Amen*: William & Gloria Gaither, Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Maher & Jason Ingram ©2014 Hanna Street Music

⁴ *Old Church Choir*: Colby Wedgeworth, Ethan Hulse & Zach Williams ©2016 Anthems of Hope / Be Essential Songs

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



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Please see an Usher for assistance
American Sign
Language
at 9:15 Service



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



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greater inclusiveness
through the
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www.RMNetwork.org