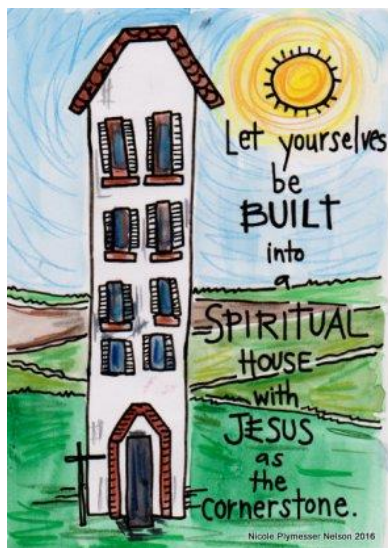


Worship Celebration: September 2, 2018

9:15 a.m. (CONTEMPORARY)

EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Year B)



We are grateful for your presence with us on this Labor Day weekend! As summer winds down and the new school year and study year begins, we are looking for instruction from God! Today's lesson from I Peter encourages us to think of our faith life as a house – a spiritual house. What kind of a house is God building in us? And how can we help with construction?! As we gather today and share in this Holy Meal of Communion, we are bound as family in Christ

**EPWORTH**  
a United Methodist Church

19285 Holland Glade Road  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971  
(302) 227-7743 ✠ [www.umcrb.org](http://www.umcrb.org)



*VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community*

*MISSION: Inviting All, Finding Your Place, Connecting to God, Demonstrating Care*

☞ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☞

### Praise Gathering

### MY LIGHTHOUSE

In my wrestling, and in my doubts, in my failures, You won't walk out.  
Your great love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea.  
Whoa, oh, You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence, You won't let go. In the questions, Your truth will hold.  
Your great love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea.  
Whoa, oh, You are the peace in my troubled sea.

*My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse shining in the darkness, I will follow You!*  
*Oh My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse, I will trust the promise: You will carry me safe to shore,*  
*safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore.*

I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning, I'll rise and sing.  
My God's love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea.  
Whoa, oh, You are the peace in my troubled sea. *Chorus}*

Bridge: Fire before us, You're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms.  
(Repeat 4X – Chorus)<sup>1</sup>

Greeting, Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Todd

## \*Passing the Peace

### \*Singing in Praise

#### THE GOSPEL

A restless generation, we're turning over ev'ry stone,  
hoping to find salvation in a world that's left us cold.  
Can we get back to the altar, back to the arms of our first love?  
There's only one way to the Father, and He's calling out to us.

*To the captive it looks like freedom, to the orphan it feels like home.  
To the skeptic it might sound crazy to believe in a God who loves.  
In a world where our hearts are breaking, and we're lost in the mess we've made,  
like a blinding light in the dead of night, it's the Gospel, the Gospel that makes a way.  
It's the Gospel that makes a way.*

It's the cure for our condition, it's the Good News for us all.  
It's greater than religion, it's the power of the cross.  
So, can we get back to the altar, back to the arms of our first love?  
There's only one way to the Father, and He's calling out to us. {Chorus}

*It's the Gospel that makes a way.*

In my own life it means forgiveness when I know I deserve the fall.  
It called me out of my darkness and carried me to the cross.  
In a moment my eyes were opened, in that moment my heart was changed.  
Like a blinding light in the dead of night, it's the Gospel. {Chorus}

TAG: *It's the Gospel that makes a way. Oh, oh, it's the Gospel that makes a way.  
It's the Gospel, the Gospel that makes a way.*<sup>2</sup>

## Children's Celebration

Terre Walton

### ✪ WE PREPARE FOR THE WORD ✪

## Joys & Concerns

Todd

### Prayer of Confession

O God, we like to think we have nothing to confess. If our thoughts are pure, our actions kind, and our thanksgiving genuine, have we not lived up to your standards? Yet you call us to put you first in all things, and we have not done that. You call us to be peacemakers, but we do little more than try to avoid conflict. You call us to a passionate faith and compassionate sacrifice, and both are difficult for us. Feed us, God, with food that endures for eternal life and answer our thirst with life-giving water. Amen.

### Words of Assurance

Do not worry. The God of peace will be with you, guarding your hearts and minds. Let your thoughts center on all that is true, honorable, just, pure, and commendable. Keep on doing

the things you have learned. God's transforming spirit dwells with those who seek to be faithful!

CORNERSTONE

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' name. (2X)

*Christ alone, cornerstone; weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm he is Lord. Lord of all.*

☞ We Engage the Word ☞

New Testament Lesson

Acts 8:26-35

Doug Yetter

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)

So he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.

He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home, seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah.

He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Brothers and Sisters,

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

**SThanks be to God**

*CORNERSTONE (CONT)*

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace.

In ev’ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. {Refrain}

He is Lord, Lord of all. (Chorus 2X)

Then He shall come with trumpets sound, oh, may I there in Him be found;

Dressed in His righteousness above – faultless, stand before the throne. (Chorus 2X)

TAG: Lord of all. <sup>3</sup>

**Sermon**

*Building A Spiritual House*

Rev. Vicky Starnes

**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!*

*HOLY SPIRIT, RAIN DOWN*

*Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down; O Comforter and Friend, How we need Your touch again;*

*Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down; Let Your power fall, let Your voice be heard,*

*Come and change our hearts as we stand on Your Word; Holy Spirit rain down. (repeat)*

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind can know what God has in store,

So open up Heaven, open it wide,

Over Your church and over our lives. {Refrain}

Rain down, rain down.

Rain down, rain down. Rain <sup>4</sup>

**☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving Prayer**

*with sung responses as in FWS 2257b,c,d*

The Lord be with you.

**Vicky**

**§ And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**§ We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**§ It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us  
through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and  
join their unending hymn:

**§ Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.**

*FWS 2257b*

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

*(Please be seated)*

**Todd**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him

To preach good news to the poor,

To proclaim release to the captives

And recovering of sight to the blind,

To set at liberty those who are oppressed,

And to announce that the time had come

When you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,

in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**Vicky**

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

§ Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. *FWS 2257c*  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, **Todd**  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

§ Amen. Amen. Amen. *FWS 2257d*  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

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.

Music during Communion *Blessings ...* Laura Story Carolyn Robinson, soprano

### ✠ We Are Sent into the World ✠

\*Benediction **Vicky**

\*Sending Song *Soul on Fire*

*God, I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart till I am a soul on fire.  
Lord, I'm longing for Your ways. I'm waiting for the day when I am a soul on fire, {\*last time to TAG}  
till I am a soul on fire. {Repeat}*

Lord, restore the joy I had I have a-wandered bring me back.  
In this darkness, lead me through until all I see is You, yeah! {Repeat Chorus}

Lord, let me burn for You again. Let me return to You again.  
And Lord, let me burn for You again! And let me return to You again! {Repeat Chorus}

TAG: *God, I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart till I am a soul on fire,  
till I am a soul on fire, till I am a soul on fire.*<sup>5</sup>

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

Bulletins for the month of September are sponsored by Epworth's United Methodist Women.

Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George and their parents, William B. & Mary Simpson and Paul & Doris Turek, by Paula Simpson.

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 Connor Camiolo

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

Ushers Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee

Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:

9:30: Teri Moore, Jerry Alexander, Pat Thornton, Tom Lechner, Sam Sonnett, Joy Glass

## Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

<sup>1</sup> My Lighthouse: Rend Collective ©2013 Thankyou Music

<sup>2</sup> The Gospel: Bryan Fowler, Toby McKeehan & Ryan Stevenson ©2017 Musical Moodswing

<sup>3</sup> Cornerstone: Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Bradbury ©2012 Hillsong Music Publishing

<sup>4</sup> Holy Spirit, Rain Down: Russell Fragar @1997 Russell Fragar/Hillsongs Publishing.

<sup>5</sup> Soul on Fire: Mac Powell, Tai Anderson, Mark Lee, David Carr, Brenton Brown & Matt Maher ©2014 Songs From the Quarry

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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

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**a United Methodist Church**  
*Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors*

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302.227.7743 [www.EUMCRB.org](http://www.EUMCRB.org)



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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  
through the  
Reconciling Ministries  
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**worship@epworth**  
7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary

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