

Worship Celebration: January 6, 2019
EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

10:00 a.m. (BLENDED WORSHIP)
Epiphany Sunday (Year C)



Today ends the 12 days of Christmas as we celebrate The Epiphany. The 12 days of Christmas carry us into the New Year and culminate with the global recognition of the importance of Christ's birth. Wise Ones travel from other cultures to offer gifts to the Christ child. As Epiphany begins, we walk with Jesus through his life and ministry – watching him grow into our Lord and Savior. We are blessed to share this walk with you today. The meal of Holy Communion is our family meal and all are welcome at Christ's table.

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 ☞

Gathering Music

Linda Jo Hess

Welcome & Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Vicky

*Passing the Peace

*Call to Worship (*from Led By Love by Lavon Bayler*)

- L: Listen! Do you hear the sounds of joy?
Have you heard the messenger's good news?
- P: **The Word was with God from the beginning.
In Jesus, the Word has come to dwell among us.**
- L: Break forth into singing, people of God!
Your comfort and your salvation are at hand.
- P: **In Christ, we are empowered as God's children.
We are gifted with grace and truth.**
- L: Sing a new song and marvel at God's ways.
Make a joyful noise through all the earth.
- P: **We celebrate the true light that enlightens us.
We rejoice in the gift of new life.**

*Hymn of Faith

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
2. Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sharing Joys & Concerns and Morning Prayer

Vicky

*Prayer of Confession

God of light, we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretension and exclusion. How often we choose to associate with people who are like us and then look down on others who differ from us. It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own. We judge the poor and join their oppressors, while you call us to identify with those in need, that all may prosper together. We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of your grace, while you welcome, as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore. Save us from our

earthbound judgments that we may look up and be guided by the star that draws all people to yourself. Awed by your forgiving presence, we fall down to worship you. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can come to Almighty God in boldness and confidence, assured of the gift of grace and empowerment of the Spirit. Lift up your eyes to see the glory of God. Receive light and healing, for God has come to dwell in us and among us. Let your hearts rejoice and your faces be radiant as we share the abundance of God's love.

☞ WE ENGAGE THE WORD ☛

Hymn of Response

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (vs. 1.)

UMH 383

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

Children's Celebration

Esther Downes

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-15

Joyce Pool

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

Brothers and Sisters,

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

§Thanks be to God

Sermon

New Beginnings

Rev. Todd Shultz

☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞

*Hymn of Response

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (vs. 4, & 5)

UMH 383

4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

5. In faith we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

Invitation to Offering

Please sign the blue Connections Pad and pass it down the row.

Todd

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!*

Offertory:

Joseph's Song ... Michael Card

Miles Slatcher, baritone

*Acclamation

We Three Kings (v. 5)

UMH 254

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:

Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,

westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

*The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

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

The Lord be with you.

§ 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.

Vicky

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your only-begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world.

By the guiding of a star, you made him known to the nations

as the son of David and king of Israel; that in following him, we might be led from darkness

and into his marvellous light.

Filled with the Spirit, who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan,
we who are baptised in his name strive for his heavenly kingdom
in whose radiance we are transfigured and the earth is transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who celebrate the manifestation of your Son
we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

§ Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might. *FWS 2257 b*

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

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father.
In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us.
Our hope is built on him in whom you are well pleased.
Having been shown to the world as your beloved Son,
he proclaimed the good news of your kingdom.
The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed,
and the captives set free.
At his word, water became wine, the hungry were filled with bread,
and the dead were raised.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world,
at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:

“Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son's command, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

§ Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. *FWS 2257 c*

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

We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Todd

Vicky

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Vicky

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages, world without end.

§ Amen. Amen. Amen.

FWS 2257 d

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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

✠ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ✠

*Benediction

Todd

*Sending Forth

Love Has Come

Traditional French Carol; text by Ken Bible

1. Love has come a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3. Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

* = *Please stand as you are able;* S = *congregational response*

Bulletins for the month of January are sponsored by Epworth.

Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and:

- In loving memory of her grandmother, Lillian Stuart, her brother, Shaun Sweetser, and her dear friend, Rob Voight, by Sharyn Warwick;
- In memory of their Parents by Terri & Lowell Markey.

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.

Assisting with today's service as

Greeters: Marjorie Mounts
Sound: Ken Mahan, Sharon Wert, Josh McGee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman
Ushers: Head Usher: Russ Mullen
Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:
Harvey Waltersdorf, Chet Sprague, Jim Larsen

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 Jo 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

Lead Interpreter: Lynn Kohler...Custodian: Wanda Hudson ... Maintenance: Mike Harrigan



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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
through the
Reconciling Ministries
Network
www.RMNetwork.org

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