

Worship Celebration: May 5, 2019  
 EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

9:15 a.m. (CONTEMPORARY)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year C)



Easter Blessings! The season of Easter lasts for 50 days and we will spend the month of May looking at the blessings of Epworth and our community of faith. Our sermon series is called Blessed Assurance – after the old hymn that says: This is my story, this is my song! Epworth’s story is filled with rich history and an amazing future. God is leading us into uncharted territory as our United Methodist denomination struggles to chart its own path forward. Today’s message and service will help to lay the groundwork for Epworth’s future. We have

the blessed assurance of God’s love and guidance to see us through these uncertain times! As we gather around the Holy Table this day, be reminded of the promise of the presence of the Risen Lord! Christ is Risen Indeed!

**EPWORTH**  
 a United Methodist Church

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



*VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community*

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

✠ ENTER GOD’S HOUSE WITH PRAISE ✠

**Praise Gathering**

**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>1</sup>*

Greeting, Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Todd

\*Passing the Peace of Christ

## \*Singing in Praise

### GOD IS ON THE MOVE

Anytime a heart turns from darkness to light;  
anytime temptation comes and someone stands to fight;  
anytime somebody lives to serve and not be served,  
I know, I know, I know, I know:

*God is on the move, on the move, Hallelujah! God is on the move in many mighty ways.  
God is on the move, on the move, Hallelujah! God is on the move, on the move today.*

Anytime in weakness someone falls upon their knees  
or dares to speak the truth that sets us free;  
anytime the choice is made to stand upon the Word,  
I know, I know, I know, I know: {Refrain}

I see a generation standing on the truth.  
In each and ev'ry nation, God is on the move.

Anytime the Gospel stirs a searching soul,  
and someone says, "Send me. Here I go."  
I know, I know, I know, I know: (refrain 2X; bridge) <sup>2</sup>

## Children's Celebration

Mickie McManamon

## Joys & Concerns

Todd

## Prayer of Confession

Resurrected One, you have proven that nothing can defeat the power of your love, and yet we continue to nurture our doubts. Time and again, you demonstrate your ability to transform despair in our human story into miraculous hope in your divine narrative, and yet we make ourselves at home in the pit of desolation. Over and over, you patiently plant your seeds of joy, and yet we continue to scoff at the puny seedlings that sprout, as if we've never before witnessed the tenacity of your regenerative Spirit. God, call us again to follow you. Show us again the miracle of your abundance. Lead us again from the depths of our fear into the Easter light of your never failing love. Amen.

## Words of Assurance

God heals all wounds, rescues all sinners, and forgives all debts. Join the song of praise!

### ☞ BE SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD ☞

#### 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*)<sup>3</sup>

**Psalm Lesson**

*Psalm 30*

Peter Keeble

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication:

"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!

O LORD, be my helper!"

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Brothers and Sisters,

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

**SThanks be to God**

*Blessed Assurance*

UMH 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

**Sermon**

*The Blessed Assurance of Epworth*

Rev. Vicky Starnes

**☞ RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ☛**

**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!*

**WE BELIEVE**

In this time of desperation, when all we know is doubt and fear,  
there is only one foundation: we believe, we believe.

In this broken generation, when all is dark, you help us see.

There is only one salvation: we believe, we believe.

*We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.  
We believe in the Crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death.  
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back again. We believe.*

So, let our faith be more than anthems, greater than the songs we sing.  
In our weakness and temptations, we believe, we believe! {Refrain}

Let the lost be found, and dead be raised; in the here and now let love invade.  
Let the church live loud! Our God will save. We believe! We believe!  
And the gates of hell will not prevail, for the power of God has torn the veil.  
Now we know Your love will never fail. We believe! We believe!

*We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.  
We believe in the Crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death.  
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back, He's coming back again!  
He's coming back again! We believe! We believe! <sup>4</sup>*

**\*The Great Thanksgiving Prayer**

*Communion liturgy by Rev. Mike Johnson*

The Lord delights in you.

**§ And also in you.**

Come boldly into the Holy Presence.

**§ We come seeking this Holy Embrace.**

Dance, sing, offer now your worship,

**§ We come with joy and gratitude, wonder and amazement.**

You love us just the way we are.

You have given us an infinite variety of shapes and sizes to portray the fullness of your glory.

Each of our voices has its own tone and texture, necessary to produce the fullness of praise.

All of us have been gifted by dreams and visions

necessary for your creation of a world rich with compassion and grace.

We are needed by you, and invited to join with you

in transforming our world into a beautiful place.

We are all loved and inspired to love others.

Every language has an aspect of your truth to tell.

You knew that it was not good for us to be alone, so you gave us the gift of each other.

You have made a special place at your table for each of us.

The gifts we bring are important to you.

This is the reason you invited us to join with the fullness of creation

and with all those who have found themselves in heavenly places to proclaim:

**Vicky**

§ Amazing, Life-changing, Inclusive Love, Creator of every single life.  
Heaven and Earth are filled with your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed are all who call upon your name for salvation.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*(Please be seated)*

Todd

You fill us with awe and so does Jesus, whom you sent.

In Christ we have observed your love for:

the illegitimate and legitimate, the foreigner and the national,

the unbeliever and believers, the demonic and the delivered,

the impoverished and the wealthy, the ignorant and the brilliant, and for us.

We saw that there was no foot you would not wash:

no matter how arrogant, how traitorous, how cowardly, even washing feet like ours.

During the Passover ritual,

Jesus took the bread that remembered all who struggle in life,  
and thanked you for your provision.

Jesus broke the bread and shared it with all, inviting:

“Take and eat. This is my body and I share it with you.”

Remember how deeply you are loved.

After the Passover meal,

Jesus took the cup that remembered Divine deliverance,  
and thanked you for your provision.

Jesus share the cup with all, inviting:

“Drink with me each of you, for this is the cup of my blood

poured out in recognition of God’s eternal covenant of forgiveness with you  
and with all of creation.” Remember how deeply you are loved.

Vicky

We humbly take our place at your table,

and seek to live lives that reflect the same grace we find  
reflected in this Divine Mystery we proclaim:

§ Christ has died in our place.

Christ is alive in this place.

Christ will come again and we have a place.

Shower of gifts, unique and holy,

energize these gifts of bread and wine,

open them up for us to become the body of Christ, that all might feel included.

Todd

Shower of gifts, unique and holy, energize the gift of us, with all our imperfections,

open them up for the world to become your church,

the unassuming body, dearly beloved bride, that all might feel included.

Shower of gifts, unique and holy,

be with those we have made to feel that they do not have a place with us at your table.

Open their eyes and ours to the fact that the gift of themselves is necessary and irreplaceable to you.

- § We are the delight of Jesus. We are the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit. We are the joyous play of our Creator, so that they might receive our laughter and our tears, our dreams and our fears, now and always. Amen.

### 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

#### *I WILL RISE*

There's a peace I've come to know, though my heart and flesh may fail.  
There's an anchor for my soul. I can say, "It is well."  
Jesus has overcome, and the grave is overwhelmed.  
The victory is won; He is risen from the dead.

*And I will rise when He calls my name; no more sorrow, no more pain.*

*I will rise on eagles' wings, before my God fall on my knees, and rise. I will rise.*

There's a day that's drawing near when this darkness breaks to light.  
And the shadows disappear, and my faith shall be my eyes.  
Jesus has overcome, and the grave is overwhelmed.  
The victory is won; He is risen from the dead. {Refrain}

And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

And I hear the cry of every longing heart, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

And I hear the cry of every longing heart, "Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb!"

(Tag) I will rise. Rise! <sup>5</sup>

#### *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>6</sup>

∞ Share God's Grace with the World ∞

Vicky

\*Benediction

\*Sending Song

THE WAY (NEW HORIZON)

Through every battle, through every heartbreak, through every circumstance,  
I believe that You are my fortress. Oh, You are my portion. You are my hiding place,

*Oh, I believe You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.*

*I believe You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.*

I believe through every blessing, through every promise, through every breath I take,  
I believe that You are provider. You are protector. You are the One I love.

*I believe You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.*

*I believe You are the Way, the Truth, the Life. I believe You are.*

It's a new horizon, and I'm set on You.  
And You meet me here today with mercies that are new.  
All my fears and doubts, they can all come, too,  
because they can't stay long when I'm here with You.

*(Bridge)*

It's a new horizon, and I'm set on You.  
And You meet me here today with mercies that are new.  
All my fears and doubts, they can all come, too,  
because they can't stay long

*when I believe You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.*

*I believe You are the Way, the Truth, the Life. I believe You are. (Repeat Final Bridge / Final Chorus) <sup>7</sup>*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**Bulletins** for the month of May are sponsored in loving memory of Robert Greenawalt's death 7 years ago, May 5, by his Wife and Family.

**Chancel Flowers** are given to the glory of God and:

- In loving memory of Bob Greenawalt on the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death (May 5) by his Wife, Children and Grandchildren;
- In loving memory of Betty, Andy and Mark Benson by Cathy and Adam Benson and Susan Jimenez.

**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* Alexis Brown

*Sound* Sharon Wert, Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman

*Ushers* Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee

Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:

9:30: Jerry Alexander, Coles Marsh, De Raynes, Robbin Murray, Tom Curry, Ken Backer

## Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

<sup>1</sup> *Soul on Fire*: Mac Powell, Tai Anderson, Mark Lee, David Carr, Brenton Brown & Matt Maher ©2014 Songs From the Quarry

<sup>2</sup> *God Is On The Move*: Ian Eskelin, Tony Wood, Cliff Williams & Mikey Howard ©2015 Wordspring Music, LLC

<sup>3</sup> *Hear Our Praises*: Reuben Morgan ©1998 Reuben Morgan / Hillsongs Publishing.

<sup>4</sup> *We Believe*: Matt Hooper, Richie Fike and Travis Ryan ©2013 Integrity Music.

<sup>5</sup> *I Will Rise*: Louie Giglio, Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher & Jesse Reeves ©2008 Vamos Publishing.

<sup>6</sup> *Holy Spirit, Rain Down*: Russell Fragar @1997 Russell Fragar/Hillsongs Publishing.

<sup>7</sup> *The Way (New Horizon)*: Daniel Bashta, Ben Smith and Pat Barrett ©2018 Capitol CMG Genesis (ASCAP)

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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 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

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

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**EPWORTH**  
**REHOBOTH BEACH**  
**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  
Network  
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**worship@epworth**

7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary

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