

Worship Celebration: May 12, 2019  
 EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

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



Welcome to the season of Easter at Epworth! We are spending 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 as our United Methodist denomination struggles to chart its own path forward. In today’s message we’ll talk about the role that Epworth could play as a Reconciling Church in the UMC and in the Pen-Del Conference. We’ll talk

about those times when God calls us to step out and take a stand for those on the margins, as Peter does in the story of the early church. We are blessed to have Helen Ryde, the Southeast Jurisdiction Representative from Reconciling Ministries as our guest preacher today – she is a gift to our church! And so are you – welcome!!

**EPWORTH**  
 a United Methodist Church

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*VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community*

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

☞ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☞

**Praise Gathering**

**GREATER**

Bring your tired and bring your shame, bring your guilt and bring your pain.  
 Don't you know that's not your name?  
 You will always be much more to me.  
 And every day I wrestle with the voices that keep telling me I'm not right,  
 but that's all right.

*'Cause I hear a voice, and He calls me redeemed when others say I'll never be enough.  
 And greater is the One living inside of me than he who is living in the world.  
 In the world, in the world.  
 And greater is the One living inside of me than he who is living in the world.*

Bring your doubts and bring your fears, bring your hurt and bring your tears.  
 There'll be no condemnation here;  
 you are holy, righteous and redeemed.

And every time I fall there'll be those who will call me a mistake.  
Well, that's okay. {Refrain}

(Bridge) There'll be days I lose the battle, Grace says that it doesn't matter  
'cause the cross already won the war.

I am learning to run freely, understanding just how He sees me,  
and it makes me love Him more and more. (repeat) {Refrain} (bridge)

(Tag) God is greater than he who is living in the world. <sup>1</sup>

## Greeting, Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Todd

### \*Passing the Peace of Christ

#### \*Singing in Praise

I AM

There's no space that His love can't reach. There's no place where we can't find peace.

There's no end to amazing grace.

Take me in with your arms spread wide. Take me in like an orphan child.

Never let go, never leave my side.

*I am, holding on to You. I am holding on to You.*

*In the middle of the storm, I am holding on, I am!*

Love like this, Oh my God to find! I am overwhelmed what a joy divine!

Love like this sets our hearts on fire! (chorus 2x)

This is my resurrection song. This is my "Hallelujah, come!"

This is why to You I run.

This is my resurrection song. This is my "Hallelujah, come!"

This is why to You I run.

There's no space that His love can't reach. There's no place where we can't find peace.

There's no end to Amazing Grace.

*I am, holding on to You. I am holding on to You.*

*In the middle of the storm, I am holding on. (repeat 2X)*

(Tag) I am. I am. In the middle of the storm, I am holding on, I am! <sup>2</sup>

### Children's Celebration

Esther Downes

## ✪ WE PREPARE FOR THE WORD ✪

### THE RECONCILIATION SONG

Oh, let us be the generation of reconciliation and peace,  
and let us be a holy nation where pride and prejudice shall cease.

Let us speak the truth in love to the lost and least of these;

and let us serve the Lord in unity so others will believe.

Let us be a generation of reconciliation and peace.

Oh, let us be the generation of reconciliation and peace,  
and let us build on one foundation 'til He comes and the wars of men shall cease.  
Let us share the Love of Jesus without hypocrisy;  
Let mercy and forgiveness begin with you and me.  
Let us be the generation of reconciliation and peace.

**New Testament Lesson**

*Acts 11:1-18*

Susan Jimenez

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.

So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.

As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'

This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Brothers and Sisters,

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

**§Thanks be to God**

*THE RECONCILIATION SONG (CONT)*

Have we not one Father?  
Have we not one faith?  
Have we not one calling to become one holy race?  
Oh, let us be a generation of reconciliation and peace.

And let us pray for restoration and seek the Lord together on our knees.  
Let us keep our hearts from evil and cling to what is good;

Let us honor one another and love the brotherhood.  
Let us be the generation of reconciliation and peace. <sup>3</sup>

## ☞ We Engage the Word ☞

Sermon

*The Blessed Assurance of Being a Reconciling Church*

Rev. Vicky Starnes  
and Helen Ryde

## ☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞

Song of Response

YOU SAY

I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough,  
ev'ry single lie that tells me I will never measure up.  
Am I more than just the sum of ev'ry high and ev'ry low?  
Remind me once again just who I am, because I need to know. Oo, oh.

*You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing.  
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.  
You say I am held when I am falling short.  
And, when I don't belong, oh, You say I am Yours,  
and I believe, oh, I believe, what You say of me. I believe.*

The only thing that matters now is ev'rything You think of me.  
In You I find my worth, in You I find my identity. Oo, oh. {Chorus}

Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at Your feet.  
You'll have ev'ry failure, God; You'll have ev'ry victory. Oo, oh. {Chorus}

TAG: *Oh, I believe Yes, I believe what You say of me. I believe.* <sup>4</sup>

Joys & Concerns

Todd

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

(sung responsively)

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!*

Offertory:

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?  
I was lost but He brought me in. Oh, His love for me! Oh, His love for me!

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed. I'm a child of God. Yes, I am.*

Free at last, He has ransomed me. His grace runs deep.  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, He died for me!

(Chorus) *Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed. I'm a child of God. Yes, I am.  
In my Father's house, there's a place for me. I'm a child of God. Yes, I am.*

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.  
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am. (Repeat Section)  
I am who You say I am. {Chorus}

*In my Father's house, there's a place for me. I'm a child of God. Yes, I am.*

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.  
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am. (Repeat Section 3X)  
Oh, I am who You say I am. Yes, I am who You say I am. {Chorus} <sup>5</sup>

## ☞ We Are Sent into the World ☛

**\*Benediction**

**Blessing of David Garrett and Glen Pruitt**

**Vicky**

**\*Sending Song**

*ALL THE PEOPLE SAID AMEN*

You are not alone if you are lonely.  
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.  
We are all the same, in need of mercy, to be forgiven and be free.  
It's all you get to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need.

*And all the people said Amen. Whoa  
And all the people said Amen.  
Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never ends.  
And all the people said Amen.*

If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter.  
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.  
We're all broken, but we're all in this together.  
God knows we stumble and fall,  
And He so loved the world, He sent his son to save us all. {Refrain}

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart.  
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.  
Blessed are the people hungry for another start,  
For theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God. {Refrain 2x}

TAG: Yeah! And all the people said Amen. <sup>6</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 celebration of Loved Ones by Floyd & Sarah Cook;
- In loving memory of Anne Briggs, 11/14/22 – 7/25/16, by the Jerfsten 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* Kayden Holt

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

*Ushers* Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee

Usher Coordinator – Worship Pathway:

9:30: Pat Thornton, Tom Lechner, Duncan & Weezie Leet, Maureen Ewadinger, Barbara Brittingham

## Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

<sup>1</sup> *Greater: MercyMe* ©2000-2015 AZLyrics.com.

<sup>2</sup> *I Am: David Crowder* ©2013 WORSHIPTOGETHER.com Songs (ASCAP)

<sup>3</sup> *The Reconciliation Song: Buddy Owens, Morris Chapman, Claire Cloninger.*

<sup>4</sup> *You Say: Lauren Daigle, Jason Ingram & Paul Mabury* ©2018 Centric Songs & See You At The Pub (SESAC)

<sup>5</sup> *Who You Say I Am: Reuben Morgan & Ben Fielding* ©2018 Hillsong Music Publishing

<sup>6</sup> *All the People Said Amen:* ©2013 Thankyou Music

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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)



Large-Print Bulletins &  
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  
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Network  
[www.RMNetwork.org](http://www.RMNetwork.org)

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

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