

Welcome to Advent at Epworth! Our Advent Sermon series is entitled: “Heaven and Nature Sing” which celebrates the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beloved hymn “Joy to the World.” This is our fourth Sunday of Advent and we will look at how the nations prove God’s glory, when they experience peaceful joy. Join us for the remainder of Advent as we explore the meaning in this beloved hymn. All are welcome at Epworth, whether a life-long church attendee or someone searching for meaning through a church home. At Epworth, all means all, so plan to celebrate Advent with us and help us to help you prepare the way for Christmas.

EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church  
19285 Holland Glade Rd., Rehoboth, DE 19971  
telephone: (302) 227-7743  
email: office@eumcrb.org



*VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community*  
*MISSION: Inviting All, Finding Your Place, Connecting to God, Demonstrating Care*

☞ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☞

☞ GATHER ☞

**Expansion of our Hearts**      **“Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy”**      **Advent IV**  
*We gather together to worship the One Who is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God’s praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.*

**Congregational Carol Sing**  
UMH: #202-246 / FWS: #2089-2100

Welcome, Announcements **(No Passing the Peace here)**

**Vicky**

**Focusing on Peaceful Joy:** Psalm 98, upon which the hymn, “Joy to the World” is based, names the joyful expression of all creation as the response to the news that the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, is coming at long last. Love, not chaos, will reign and balance will be restored. As we get ever closer to Christmas, we acknowledge with the hymn writer, Isaac Watts, that “God rules the world”—not with sword or domination—but “with truth and grace.” In this, all nations, all of the world will prove God’s presence in and through this peaceful joy.

[Advent Candle Readers come to the wreath]

Song *Heaven and Nature Sing* PT leads / Congregation echoes

Sing a new song to the Lord. Lift your hearts with gratitude

Sing a new song to the Lord. Lift your hearts with gratitude

And Joy, Peaceful Joy

Your steadfast love and faithfulness is ever present in our lives.

Your steadfast love and faithfulness is ever present in our lives.

With Joy, Peaceful Joy

Advent Readers

Dow & Renee Juliano, Caidan, Callie & Cole

Let the sea laugh, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the waters clap their hands; let the hills ring out with joy before the Beloved, who radiates Peace to all the earth. For Love reigns over the world with truth and justice bringing order and balance to all of Creation.

We light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizing Peace. Let us pray:

Holy God, we await again the arrival of Your son, the Prince of Peace. We long for the peaceful waters of joy that run deep and wide underneath all of life. When we feel the chaos of life bearing down on us, help us to remember that it doesn't have to be this way. Help us to step into a slower rhythm that is your Peaceful Joy.

P: Let truth and grace rule our hearts this day.

Let truth and grace rule our church this day.

Let truth and grace rule the world this day...in the name of Peace. Amen.

Song

We sing. We sing. Joy to the World. Heaven and nature sing

Joy to the World. Heaven and nature sing. With Joy. Peaceful Joy

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ:** You are invited to pass the peace by saying, "May you have peaceful joy" to the people around you.

*CALL HIS NAME JESUS*

An angel came down to a Virgin with a heav'nly word.

The name of a beautiful promise for a fallen world.

You will give birth to a Son, the Child of the Most Holy One. And they will call Him:

*Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father,*

*But one name will stand high above all the rest: Jesus, Jesus.*

*There's only one name ev'ry tongue will confess: Jesus, call His name Jesus.*

There's no other name that can save us, no other name.

No other Lord can redeem us; He's the only way.

For a Child has been given for us, a gift from the Father above.

And we will call Him: *(Refrain)*

Salvation, healing and grace in the name above all names.  
Call His name Jesus, call His name Jesus.  
Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. <sup>1</sup>

## ☞ RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD ☞

### Children's Celebration

Mickie McManamon

#### IMMANUEL

A sign shall be given: a virgin will conceive  
a human baby bearing undiminished Deity.  
The glory of the nations, a light for all to see,  
and hope for all who will embrace His warm reality.

*Immanuel, our God is with us.  
And if God is with us, who could stand against us?  
Our God is with us, Immanuel.*

All those who live in the shadows of death, a glorious light has dawned.  
For all those who stumble in the darkness, behold: a light has come. {Refrain}

So what shall be your answer? Oh, will you hear the call  
of Him who did not spare His Son, but gave Him for us all?  
On earth there is no power, there is no depth or height  
could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ. {Refrain} <sup>2</sup>

### Old Testament Lesson      *Isaiah 7:10-16 (Common English Bible)*

Walt Smith

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign from the LORD your God.  
Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven."  
But Ahaz said, "I won't ask; I won't test the LORD."  
Then Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David!  
Isn't it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God?  
Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign.  
The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him  
Immanuel.  
He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good.  
Before the boy learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings you dread will  
be abandoned.

### \*Gospel Lesson      *Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.  
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was  
found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.  
Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,  
planned to dismiss her quietly.  
But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and

said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Brothers and Sisters

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

§ Thanks be to God

Sermon

*Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy*

Rev. Todd Shultz

☞ TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES ☞

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Vicky

Morning Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

*Sung Responsively*

FWS 2278

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!*

*A CHRISTMAS HALLELUJAH*

I’ve heard about this baby boy who’s come to earth to bring us joy and I just want to sing this song to you.

It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth, the minor fall, the major lift; with ev’ry breath I’m singing Hallelujah.

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelu---jah.*

The couple came to Bethlehem, expecting child, they search the inn, to find a place for You were coming soon.

There was no room for them to stay, so in a manger filled with hay God’s only Son was born, Oh, Hallelujah. *{Repeat Refrain}*

The shepherds left their flocks by night to see this baby wrapped in light, a host of angels led them all to You.

It was just as the angels said, “You’ll find Him in a manger bed! Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah!” *{Repeat Refrain}*

I know you came to rescue me, this baby boy would grow to be a man and one day die for me and you.

My sins would drive the nails in You that rugged cross was my cross too,  
still ev'ry breath You drew was Hallelujah. {Refrain 2X} <sup>3</sup>

### ☞ COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD ☞

*Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place “with passion” (com-*passion*) for adding our love, peace, hope, and joy to the world.*

**Benediction:** And so, my friends, may you be blessed with a Peaceful Joy that gives you **Todd** deep serenity. May you work to help all nations prove that truth and grace are the way to bring right relationship – a right way of looking at the world, of being in the world, and bringing peace to the world. And may you sing along with all heaven and earth!

**Benediction Song** *We're Gonna Bring Joy to the World*

Joy! Hope! Peace! Love!  
We're gonna bring joy to the world, hope to the world.  
Peace to the world, and love for everyone!  
God's Joy in our hearts! God's Hope in our hearts!  
God's Peace in our hearts! God's love... God's Son in our hearts!

**Sending Forth** *GLORY (LET THERE BE PEACE)*

One star burns in the darkness, shines with the promise: Emmanuel.  
One child born in the stillness, living within us: Emmanuel.

*We're singing glory, glory; let there be peace, let there be peace.  
Singing glory, glory; let there be peace, let it start in me.*

One voice speaks for the voiceless, hope for the hopeless: Emmanuel.  
One love bring us together, now and forever: Emmanuel. {Chorus}

Do not be afraid, His love is strong enough to save us.  
Nothing stands in the way, His love is strong enough to lead us. {Repeat} {Chorus twice}

TAG: *Let there be peace, let it start in me.* <sup>4</sup>

*\*Please stand as you are able; § congregational response.*





**Bulletins** for the month of December are sponsored in honor of Denny's birthday, 12/14, and granddaughter, Sarah's birthday, 12/16, by Laurel St. Germain.

**Thank you** for donating poinsettias and funds toward the "Youth Rally." Lists of donation remembrances can be found in the narthex for those who have not received a copy. This is our effort to be good stewards of our environment and cost. Thanks for your understanding.

**Stephen Ministers** wearing blue name badges will be at each service if anyone in the Epworth family wants to talk about any life challenges.

**Our Advent liturgy and special music** comes from the Marcia McFee 2019 Advent Series.

**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 recordings 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

*Acolyte* Caiden Juliano  
*Sight & Sound* Sharon Wert, Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman, Sofia Tamburello  
*Ushers* Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee  
Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:  
9:30: Barbara Brittingham, Larry Zeigler, Beth Rinker, Ruth Ann Barnes, Cathy McCallister, Karen Hugues

#### Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

<sup>1</sup> *Call His Name Jesus*: Shawn Craig ©1996 Ariose Music and Praise Song Press

<sup>2</sup> *Immanuel*: Michael Card ©1986 Birdwing Music

<sup>3</sup> *Hallelujah Christmas*: Leonard Cohen ©1995 Sony / ATV Music

<sup>4</sup> *Glory (Let There Be Peace)*: Chris Stevens, Matt Maher & Rachel Taylor Popadic ©2016 Meaux Mercy

---

**Ministers:** The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Gwen Osborne

*Senior Pastor:* Rev. Vicky Starnes ... *Associate Pastor:* Rev. Todd Shultz

*Director of Music Ministries:* Doug Yetter ... *Choir Accompanist:* Linda Hess ... *Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon

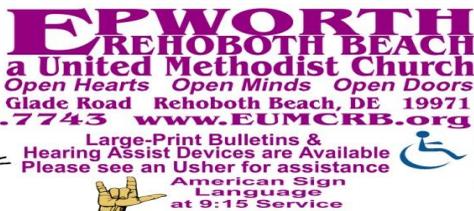
*Manager of Facilities & Technologies:* Kenneth Mahan ... *Office Manager:* Darlene Ford ... *ASL Interpreter:* Sandy Davis

*Special Projects:* Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Diana Young ... *Sound Tech:* Josh Megee

*Preschool Director:* Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford ... *Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson

*Custodian:* Wanda Hudson...*Maintenance:* Mike Harrigan...*Lead Interpreter:* Sandy Davis

---



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