

Worship Celebration: January 5, 2020

10:00 a.m. (COMBINED WORSHIP)

EPWORTH: *a United Methodist Church*

Epiphany Sunday (Year A)



Today, we begin a series, “We Are Epworth!” designed to explore our community identity as expressed through our Mission—Inviting All, Finding Your Place, Connecting to God, and Demonstrating Care. As we celebrate Epiphany today, we remember God’s self-revelation through Jesus to the outsiders, the Gentiles; and we recognize that from the very beginning of Jesus’ life, God demonstrates the availability of divine grace to ALL people. We call to mind the peasant mother, Mary, her skilled worker husband, Joseph, the animals surrounding them in the stable, and the lowly “outcast” shepherds who gathered at the manger. On this day, we specifically highlight the Magi, travelers from the East who came to worship Jesus and who were received with open arms. We also celebrate Epworth’s mission of Inviting All, a reflection of this divine love. As we share in communion, please know that Christ invites ALL to join in the meal.

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 *HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING (WITH KING OF HEAVEN)*

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled;
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born Bethlehem;
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace, hail the Son of righteousness;
Light of life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings;
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth;
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.

*King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let Your glory reign, shining like the day, King of heaven, come;
King of heaven, rise up, who can stand against us;
You are strong to save, in Your mighty name, King of heaven, come. Oh-----, Oh-----*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb;
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the songs of earth, born to give them second birth;
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King. {Refrain}

*(Chorus 2) King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let Your glory reign, shining like the day, King of heaven, come;
King of heaven, rise up, who can stand against us;
You are strong to save, in Your mighty name, King of heaven, come.*

King—of—heaven—come--- (4X)
King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let Your glory reign, shining like the day, King of heaven, come!¹

Welcome & Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Todd

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

***Call to Worship**

L: After Jesus' birth, strangers came from the East to honor him.

P: **But, Herod and the establishment felt threatened by this newborn king.**

L: These Magi "outsiders" came anyway.

P: And Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus invited them in!

L: We still have outsiders today.

P: We commit ourselves to 'Inviting ALL' as we have been invited!

***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

Todd

☞AN ORDER FOR THE WELCOME OF VICKI GORDY-STITH AS PASTOR☞

Lay Leader to Vicki:

Gwen Osborne

Vicki, you have been sent to live among us at Epworth

as a bearer of the Word of God;

a minister of the Sacraments;

and a sustainer of the love, order, and discipleship of the people of God.

This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility. In love, we thank you for responding to God's call and accepting your new responsibility as we join you in a commitment to live a life in Christ and make Christ known in our witness and work.

People to Vicki:

§ Accept these symbols representing your ministry with us and among us. As partners with you in ministry, we will do all we can to assist and encourage you in the responsibilities to which you have been called, giving you our cooperation, counsel, and our prayers.

The Presentation of Signs of Ministry

(Persons will present signs of leadership at Epworth.)

Membership Directory -

§ Receive this directory, a symbol of your care for the Epworth Church family in our times of joy and sorrow.

Bible, Prayer Stole, Cross and Flame -

§ Receive this Bible and proclaim fearlessly the prophetic Word in the cause of justice and peace for all people. Receive these praying hands to remind you of the power of

prayer and God's faithfulness and this Cross and Flame to remind you of Christ's unwavering love and the gift of God's Holy Spirit for your work and life. Amen.

Stole, Hymnal, Book of Worship -

§ Receive this stole, hymnal and Book of Worship reminding us of the Good Shepherd who has empowered and equipped you to be our pastor and preacher leading in the worship of God.

Globe -

§ Receive this replica of the earth and remember that, as heirs of John Wesley, the whole world is our parish and remind us always of our connection to God's people around the world and God's call to serve the community and world for the sake of Christ.

Epworth's Vision and Mission

§ Receive this resource to help order the life of the congregation through our vision and mission. Here are our Mission Areas which guide and support our life together.

Container of Water, Chalice and a Paten -

§ Receive this water and be renewed in your baptism that is your essential credential for ministry and offer God's grace to others. Receive this chalice and paten as symbols of the means of grace God offers and the communion with Christ and the Church.

Basin and a Towel -

§ Receive this basin and towel as a sign of our servant ministry together.

Vicki to the people:

I thank you, the members and friends of Epworth, and accept these symbols representative of my ministry with you and among you. I pledge my commitment to live a life in Christ and allow God to guide my ministry with you.

The people pray:

§ Thank you, gracious God, for uniting us in your Holy Spirit. We bless you for the privilege of sharing our ministry with Vicki and pray she may be for your people an effective example in word and action, love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with her, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession

Holy Child of Bethlehem, in the stillness of this moment, we recognize that we do not always invite all. Many of us have not always felt invited, and yet YOU have always invited us. Today, we have strangers among us, including our new pastor. We do not know each other and change comes hard. Yet, we also know, in the depth of our hearts, that you are the God of change, who transforms us with new mercies morning by morning. Just as the Magi had to change course and return home another way, you invite us to change course, too. Help us to trust you. Open our hearts to receive the gift of each other, knowing that every encounter offers us the opportunity to draw closer to

Todd

you or to pull away from you. Allow the vulnerability of a newborn baby to inspire us to embrace the risk of life, invite all, and come near to honor Jesus. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

As certain as the dawn follows the night, so is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all. Arise and Shine. Follow the star. Find the light of the world born in Bethlehem . . . and be transformed from darkness into light.

☞ WE ENGAGE THE WORD ☞

Hymn of Response

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (vs. 1, 4, & 5)

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.
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.

Children's Celebration

Rev. Vicki Gordy-Stith

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Mike Ryan

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.

Brothers and Sisters,

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

§Thanks be to God

☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞

Hymn of ResponseTogether We Serve*

FWS 2175

1. Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.
2. We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.
3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.
4. Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

Invitation to Offering*Please sign the blue Connections Pad and pass it down the row.*

Vicki

*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

AcclamationThe First Noel (v5)*

UMH 245

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayerwith sung responses as in FWS 2257 b,c,d*

May the Light of Christ shine in you.

\$ And also in you.

Lift up your weary and wandering hearts.

\$ We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us join together in giving thanks to God.

\$ We are Epworth! And we say, "Thanks!"

Vicki

We are Epworth, a very special community, a community which invites all
to come and join us as we follow the star to gather around the Christ-child.

We recognize that, like Jesus, we come from dust – the stardust of the stars you created,
God, the stars you call by name.

We remember that when you created us in your very own image,
you called us, "Very good!"

Yet, we humans struggle to accept such love; and when we do not feel that
ever-present love, we tend to exclude others, unable to believe that you have
enough love for all of us.

Like Joseph, we find there is no room for us in the inn.
Yet, you, Giver of Life, refuse to be stopped.
You will find a way for new life to be born in us.
And, you will make a way for us to Invite All to experience your love.

What Child Is This? (vs. 1)

UMH 219

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

From the very beginning of his life, Jesus Invited All – angels, shepherds,
and those we call “Wise Men,” who were really nothing but outsiders
in this small town of Bethlehem.

Todd

As he grew up, he refused to exclude people his culture labelled “cursed”
– the “unclean” lepers, those who could not see,
people considered sinners unworthy of God's love.

Instead, he touched the unclean, he ate with “sinners,” he befriended tax collectors.

And, the night he was betrayed, he even refused to exclude his betrayer at his table.
Instead, he invited ALL to share that final meal with him, enemies and friends alike.

At that feast, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to ALL
of his disciples, saying, “Take. Eat. This is my body broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took a cup, gave thanks to you, and gave it to ALL
of his disciples, saying, “Drink from this, ALL of you.

Vicki

This is my life blood of the new covenant poured out for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

So, as we remember Christ, we sing:

Joy to the World (vs. 4)

UMH 246

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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

Todd

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ – his very life,
so that we may be his body for the world.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to ALL the world as we go about inviting ALL to the feast.

We look forward with hope to that day when ALL are invited,
ALL are accepted, ALL are included, and ALL become one body
at the heavenly banquet. Amen.

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 Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

Todd

§ 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

Vicki

Music during Communion

At This Table

Glen Pruitt, soloist

✠ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ✠

*Benediction

Vicki

*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.* ²

* = Please stand as you are able; § = 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: Sharon Wert, Josh McGee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman
Ushers: Head Usher: Russ Mullen
Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:
Dale & Sandy Biller, Maureen Ewadinger

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Vicki Gordy-Stith ... 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: Barbara Kurtz ... Sound Tech: Josh Megee

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

Lead Interpreter: Sandy Davie...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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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
Reconciling Ministries
Network
www.RMNetwork.org

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

Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

¹ *Hark! the Herald Angels sing (with King of Heaven)*: Charles Wesley & Felix Mendelssohn, Paul Baloche ©2013 Integrity Worship Music/Leadership song

² *Glory (Let There Be Peace)*: Chris Stevens, Matt Maher & Rachel Taylor Popadic ©2016 Meaux Mercy