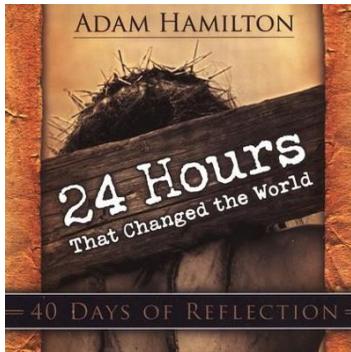


Worship Celebration: March 1, 2020

EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

9:15 a.m. (CONTEMPORARY)

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent (Year A)

Today, we begin a series examining the last 24 hours of Jesus' life, based on a book by Adam Hamilton, *24 Hours That Changed the World*. So much happened during Jesus' last day on earth—from sharing the Last Supper with his disciples to his betrayal and abandonment by these same disciples, to his challenging of worldly power by refusing to retaliate, to extending mercy to those around him, and ultimately his death. Most years, the church covers these profound moments during Holy Week—the days between Palm Sunday and Easter. This year, we will go deeper, spending our entire Lenten season with Jesus during these last 24 hours. Today, we start with the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus had eaten the Last Supper with

the disciples, they had sung the final hymn, and headed to a familiar place where Jesus had often prayed. There, Jesus took his closest three disciples—Peter, James, and John, further in the garden, asking them to stay alert. He needed space for his heart to break open and wrestle with the upcoming events, and he needed to know that his closest friends had his back. But, they did not. They kept falling asleep. Hamilton writes that the time was well past midnight. Perhaps they were tired. Perhaps they had drunk too much wine. Perhaps they had seen Jesus in trouble multiple times and always watched him find a way out. Clearly, though, this time Jesus truly needed them to stay awake and watch. He was anxious and troubled. Jesus must remain anxious and troubled when he looks at our world today. We hate and argue and mock and betray each other, which must break Jesus' heart. He invites us to stay awake and pray. His disciples could not. Can you?

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*VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community*

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

✠ ENTER GOD'S HOUSE WITH PRAISE ✠

### Praise Gathering

### OPEN UP THE HEAVENS

We waited for this day, we're gathered in Your name, calling out to you.  
Your glory like a fire, awakening desire, will burn our hearts with truth.

You're the reason we're here. You're the reason we're singing.

*Open up the heavens; we wanna see You.*

*Open up the floodgates, a mighty river flowing from Your heart, filling ev'ry part of our praise.*

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face, we're looking to the sky.  
Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now. Lord, unveil our eyes.

You're the reason we're here. You're the reason we're singing. *(Chorus 2X)*

Show us, show us Your glory. Show us, show us Your power.  
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord. *(repeat)*

Into CHORUS: We wanna see You, we wanna see You! *(Chorus 2X)*

TAG: We sing, sing! <sup>1</sup>

## Greeting, Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Todd

### \*Passing the Peace

### \*Singing in Praise

### BUILD YOUR KINGDOM HERE

Come set Your rule and reign in our hearts again.  
Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope, like wildfire in our very souls;  
Holy Spirit come invade us now.  
We are Your church; We need Your pow'r in us.

We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;  
Refuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize.  
To see the captives' hearts released; The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.  
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause. We are Your church, We pray, revive this earth.

*Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.  
Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.  
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.  
Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!*

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r, reaching the near and far.  
No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts.  
You made us for much more than this; Awake the kingdom seed in us.  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.  
We are Your church; We are the hope on earth. *(refrain 2X)* <sup>2</sup>

## Children's Celebration

Linda BenderHilt

### ☞ BE SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD ☛

### WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE IN ME

Let the weak say, "I am strong."  
Let the poor say, "I am rich."  
Let the blind say, "I can see."  
It's what the Lord has done in me." *{Repeat section}*

*Hosanna! Hosanna! To the Lamb that was slain.*

*Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus died and rose again.*

Into the river I will wade. There my sins are washed away,  
from the heaven's mercy stream of the Savior's love for me.

I will rise from waters deep into the saving arms of God.

I will sing salvation songs: Jesus Christ has set me free! *{Chorus twice – first verse}*.<sup>3</sup>

### **Old Testament Lesson**

*Psalm 118:5-6, 13-17*

Virgil Night

In my distress I prayed to the LORD, and the LORD answered me and set me free.

The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear.

What can mere people do to me?

My enemies did their best to kill me, but the Lord rescued me.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory.

Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly.

The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!

The strong right arm of the Lord is raised in triumph.

The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!

I will not die; instead, I will live to tell what the Lord has done.

### **\*Gospel Lesson**

*Mark 14:26, 32-42*

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray."

He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed.

He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death.

Stay here and keep watch with me."

He went on a little farther and fell to the ground.

He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by.

"Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you.

Please take this cup of suffering away from me.

Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Then he returned and found the disciples asleep.

He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep?

Couldn't you watch with me even one hour?

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation.

For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before.

When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open.

And they didn't know what to say.

When he returned to them the third time, he said, "Go ahead and sleep.

Have your rest.

But no—the time has come.

The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.  
Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!"

Brothers and Sisters,

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

**S**Thanks be to God

*TO SEE THE KING OF HEAVEN FALL (GETHSEMANE HYMN)*

To see the King of Heaven fall in anguish to His knees;  
The Light and Hope of all the world now overwhelmed with grief.  
What nameless horrors must He see, to cry out in the garden:  
"Oh, take this cup away from me, Yet not my will but Yours; Yet not my will but Yours."

To know each friend will fall away, and heaven's voice be still,  
For hell to have its vengeful day upon Golgotha's hill.  
No words describe the Savior's plight to be by God forsaken.  
Till wrath and love are satisfied, and ev'ry sin is paid, and ev'ry sin is paid.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

**✠ RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠**

**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!*

*EYE OF THE STORM*

When the solid ground is falling out from underneath my feet,  
Between the black skies and my red eyes, I can barely see.  
And when I'm feeling like I've been let down by my friends and my family,  
I can hear the rain reminding me:

*In the eye of the storm, You remain in control. In the middle of the war, You guard my soul.  
You alone are the anchor when my sails are torn. Your love surrounds me in the eye of the storm.*

When my hopes and dreams are far from me and I'm running out of faith,  
I see the future I picture slowly fade away.  
And when the tears of pain and heartache are pouring down my face,  
I can find my peace in Jesus' name. *(Refrain - Instrumental)*

When they let me go and I just don't know how I'm gonna make ends meet,  
I did my best; now I'm scared to death that we might lose ev'rything.  
And when a sickness takes my child away and there's nothing I can do,  
My only hope is to trust You. I trust You, Lord.

*In the eye of the storm, you remain in control. In the middle of the war, you guard my soul.  
You alone are the anchor when my sails are torn. Your love surrounds me... {Refrain} <sup>4</sup>*

### Prayer of Confession

O God, we see ourselves in the stories of this day. We see ourselves undisciplined in prayer, unable to stay awake to commune with you. We see ourselves reacting violently, as did Peter. We betray your trust in us and deny our commitment to you. We participate in the evil of Good Friday and the evil of our own day. This is not our intent, God. Save us from ourselves, we pray. Amen.

### Words of Assurance

God says to us: I will remember your sins no more. I will put my laws in your hearts and write them on your minds. Your consciences will be cleansed and your bodies washed with pure water. Hold fast to hope without wavering. God is faithful and opens up to us a new and living way through Christ.

### \*The Great Thanksgiving Prayer (*SUNG*)

L: God be with you in the building of the body.

Lift your hearts up in the outpouring of love.

It is right to give our thanks and praise forever.

God is with us as Creator, Spirit, Christ.

**P: God is with us as Creator, Spirit, Christ.**

L: On the night when Jesus gave his life for many,  
in the breaking of the bread, thanking our God,  
Jesus gave bread to his people, "Eat, remember.  
This is no longer just bread, this is my life."

**P: "This is no longer just bread, this is my life."**

L: Then he took the common cup, poured out for many,  
in the covenant of grace, thanking our God,  
Jesus gave wine in forgiveness, "Drink, remember.  
This is no longer just wine this is my love."

**P: "This is no longer just wine this is my love."**

L: Spirit bless us all who gather at your table.  
Spirit bless these simple gifts of bread and cup.  
Make them be for us the very life of Jesus.  
So that we can be his life-love in the world.

**P: So that we can be his life-love in the world.**

L: Make us one now with each other and with Jesus.  
Make us one in love and service to the world.  
Make us one as sign and living of your kingdom  
'till the day when all Creation is restored.

**P: 'Till the day when all Creation is restored.**

§ 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

Doug Yetter, keyboard

☞ Share God's Grace with the World ☛

\*Benediction

Vicki

\*Sending Song

FRIEND OF GOD

Who am I that You are mindful of me, that You hear me when I call?  
Is it true that You are thinking of me? How You love me, it's amazing.

*(refrain 1) I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God.*

*I am a friend of God, He calls me friend.*

*I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God.*

*I am a friend of God, He calls me friend. (repeat verse)*

Who am I that You are mindful of me, that You hear me when I call?  
Is it true that You are thinking of me? How You love me, it's amazing.  
It's Amazing!!! *(refrain 1)*

*(Bridge) Instrumental*

God almighty, Lord of Glory, You have called me friend.

God almighty, Lord of Glory, You have called me friend.

God almighty, Lord of Glory, You have called me friend.

*(refrain 2) I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God,*

*I am a friend of God, You call me friend.*

*I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God,*

*I am a friend of God, You call me friend. (repeat)*

*(Tag) You call me friend!!!<sup>5</sup>*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*



Bulletins for the month of March are sponsored by Russ Mullen.

Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of their parents, Florence & Charles Rinker and Harriet & Charles Brenton, by Sue Brenton & Beth Rinker.

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 Chase Reynolds

Sound Sharon Wert, Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman, Sofia Tamburello, Tommy Vyas

Ushers Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee

Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:

9:30: Duncan & Weezie Leet, Michael Fehrenbach, Coles Marsh, Dale & Sandy Biller

## Worship Resources

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<sup>1</sup> *Open Up the Heavens*: Jason Ingram, Stuart Garrard, Andi Rozier, James MacDonald & Meredith Andrews ©2012 Song/ATV Music Publishing LLC

<sup>2</sup> *Build Your Kingdom Here*: Rend Collective Experiment ©2011 Thankyou Music.

<sup>3</sup> *What the Lord Has Done in Me*: Reuben Morgan ©1998 Hillsongs Publishing

<sup>4</sup> *Eye of the Storm*: Bryan Fowler & Ryan Stevenson ©2015 Stevens Fowler JV Sesac Designee

<sup>5</sup> *Friend of God*: Michael Gungor and Israel Houghton ©2003 Vertical Worship Songs & Integrity's Praise! Music.

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. 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 ... Interim Administrative Assistant: Barbara Kurtz ... Sound Tech: Josh Megee ... ASL Interpreter: Sandy Davis

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

Custodian: Wanda Hudson...Maintenance: Mike Harrigan



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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