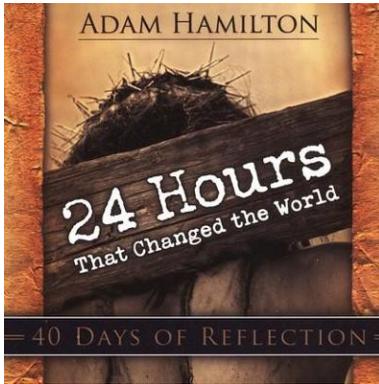


Worship Celebration: March 15, 2020

EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

9:15 a.m. (CONTEMPORARY)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent (Year A)

This week as we continue to walk the last 24 hours with Jesus, we hear the story of how Jesus' disciples all failed him during his last day on earth. We begin with Judas, as he betrays with a kiss. He may have wanted to force Jesus to act, since many times "messiah" figures arose during Passover, hoping to overthrow Rome. Regardless of his motivation, he used a sign of affection for the betrayal, which must have stung Jesus even more. Yet, when the soldiers came to arrest him, all of his disciples fled; all of them abandoned him. People who had lived with Jesus every day for three years, all just fled when he was arrested. Only Peter found the courage to follow and enter the courtyard after Jesus. Yet, even Peter's courage failed him, when by-standers identified him as being with Jesus. He denied even knowing Jesus. What do

these failures have in common? Fear. Self-preservation. Survival. Yet, Jesus loved them and never stopped loving them, even when they failed him. They broke his heart, yet his heart remained open to love and forgiveness and healing. Jesus offers us the same indescribable grace and love to us, no matter how we have failed or abandoned him. He invites us to keep our hearts open to receive and to give that same healing love to others.

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

LOVE THE LORD

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength; (repeat)

With all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your mind; with all your strength; (repeat)

I will serve the Lord with all my heart,  
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength; (repeat)

With all my heart, with all my soul,  
with all my mind, with all my strength;

I will serve the Lord with all my heart,  
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength;

I will love You, (echo) I will praise You; (echo)  
I will serve You, (echo) I will trust You. (echo)

With all my heart, with all my soul,  
with all my mind, with all my strength; (*repeat*)

I will love You, Lord, with all my heart, with all my soul,  
with all my mind and with all my strength; (*repeat 2x*) <sup>1</sup>

## Greeting, Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Todd

### \*Passing the Peace of Christ

#### \*Singing in Praise

#### WHAT A FRIEND

Ev'rybody has trials, and temptations. (Ooh, ooh.)  
Ev'rybody knows heart break, isolation. (Ooh, ooh.)  
But we can lay our burdens down, lay our burdens down.

*What a friend we have in Jesus, east to west my sins are gone.  
I see grace on ev'ry horizon, and forever and ever his heart is my home.*

Ev'rybody has fears, ev'rybody got worry. (Ooh, ooh.)  
Ev'rybody knows sorrow, devastation. (Ooh, ooh.)  
But we can lay our burdens down, lay our burdens down. {*Chorus*}

No more betrayal, for he is faithful, He fills me up and my cup runneth over.  
No more betrayal, for he is faithful, how He has proven it over and over.

No more betrayal, for he is faithful, He fills me up and my cup runneth over.  
No more betrayal, for he is faithful, for He has proven it over and over, over and over.  
{*Chorus Twice*}

TAG: Forever and ever his heart is my home. <sup>2</sup>

## Children's Celebration

Linda BenderHilt

## ☞ BE SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD ☞

### Rite of Commissioning Stephen Ministers

Vicki and Todd

#### Welcoming:

Pastor

#### Presentation:

Karen: Presentation of Stephen Ministers:

Marilyn Emanuel

Curt Smith

Katina Gooch

Jayne Tamburello

William Martin

George Walton

Jo Pokorny

Jo Ann:

Friends, you have been equipped to serve as Stephen Ministers at Epworth United Methodist Church. Listen now to the words we find in the scriptures.

“Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

**Requests:**

Karen:

We ask you now to join in serving our Lord and those in our congregation and community who need to be comforted. That you will strive to be responsive to the needs of others. We ask you to be a good listener, to help heal divisions whenever you find them, and work to make people whole. Use your skills and talents to minister to those people whom you serve and pray for them. Help this congregation grow as a caring community through the Stephen Ministry and represent the living testimony of Christ’s love.

**Vows:**

Pastor (Todd): Are you prepared to meet those requests that we have asked of you?

Answer: – Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor (Vicki): Are you prepared to nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others – to support, encourage, build-up and comfort people in all their needs?

Answer: – Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor (Todd): – Are you prepared to serve as Stephen Ministers at Epworth United Methodist Church?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

**Blessing & Prayer:**

Pastor (Vicki): Congregation please extend your hands to bless these Stephen Ministers and embrace them as servants of the Lord serving in the Ministry of Epworth United Methodist Church.

**Prayer: (Vicki)**

LOVE THE LORD

I will serve the Lord with all my heart,  
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength; *(repeat)*

With all my heart, with all my soul,  
with all my mind, with all my strength;  
I will serve the Lord with all my heart,  
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength;

☞ WE ENGAGE THE WORD ☞

ANCIENT WORDS

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;  
They resound with God's own heart, O, let the ancient words impart;  
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;  
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

*Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.*

\*Gospel Lesson

Mark 14:43-46, 66-72

Pam McMillan

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by.

When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

And he went out into the forecourt.

Then the cock crowed.

And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them."

But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about."

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time.

Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Brothers and Sisters,

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

**§Thanks be to God**

ANCIENT WORDS (CONT)

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,  
Came to us through sacrifice; O heed the faithful words of Christ;  
Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;  
They resound with God's own heart; O let the ancient words impart. (*refrain 2x*)

Tag: O let the ancient words impart. <sup>3</sup>

☞ RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ☛

Song of Response

HOW CAN IT BE?

I am guilty, ashamed of what I've done, what I've become.  
These hands are dirty; I dare not lift them up to the Holy One.

*You plead my cause, You right my wrongs, You break my chains, You overcome.  
You gave Your life to give me mine. You say that I am free; how can it be?  
Yeah, how can it be?*

I've been hiding, afraid I've let You down. Inside I doubt that You still love me,  
but in Your eyes there's only grace now. {Repeat Refrain}

Though I fall, You can make me new.  
From this death I will rise with You.  
Oh, the grace reaching out for me, yeah.  
How can it be? How can it be? {Refrain 2X}<sup>4</sup>

Morning Prayer

Todd

The Lord's Prayer

(sung responsively)

FWS 2278

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 at the end of the  
service, if you wish. Bless your heart for supporting our ministries!*

Offertory:

HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Your hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Your power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! {Refrain} <sup>5</sup>

☞ SHARE GOD'S GRACE WITH THE WORLD ☛

\*Benediction

Vicki

## \*Sending Song

## 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>6</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 honor of the Stephen Ministry leaders, JoAnn Merrick and Karen Kaufman, and my fellow Stephen Ministers, by Jo Pokorny.

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 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.

*Acolyte* Kayden Holt

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

*Ushers* Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee

Usher Coordinator – Worship Pathway:

9:30: Pat Thornton, Tom Lechner, Bunny Maher, Carol Pophan, Ginny Refsnider, Lori Watson

## Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

<sup>1</sup> *Love The Lord*: Lincoln Brewster ©2005 Integrity's Praise! Music/BMI

<sup>2</sup> *What a Friend*: Abbie Parker, Adam Palmer, Matt Maher & Matthew Hein ©2017 All Essential Music

<sup>3</sup> *Ancient Words*: Lynn Deshazo ©2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

<sup>4</sup> *How Can It Be?*: Jason Ingram, Paul Mabury & Jeff Johnson ©2014 Song/ATV Publishing, LLC

<sup>5</sup> *How Great Thou Art!*: Stuart K. Hine ©1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc.

<sup>6</sup> *I Am*: David Crowder ©2013 WORSHIPTOGETHER.com Songs (ASCAP)

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**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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**EPWORTH**  
**REHOBOTH BEACH**  
**a United Methodist Church**  
*Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors*

19285 Holland Glade Road Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971  
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  
Reconciling Ministries  
Network  
[www.RMNetwork.org](http://www.RMNetwork.org)

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

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