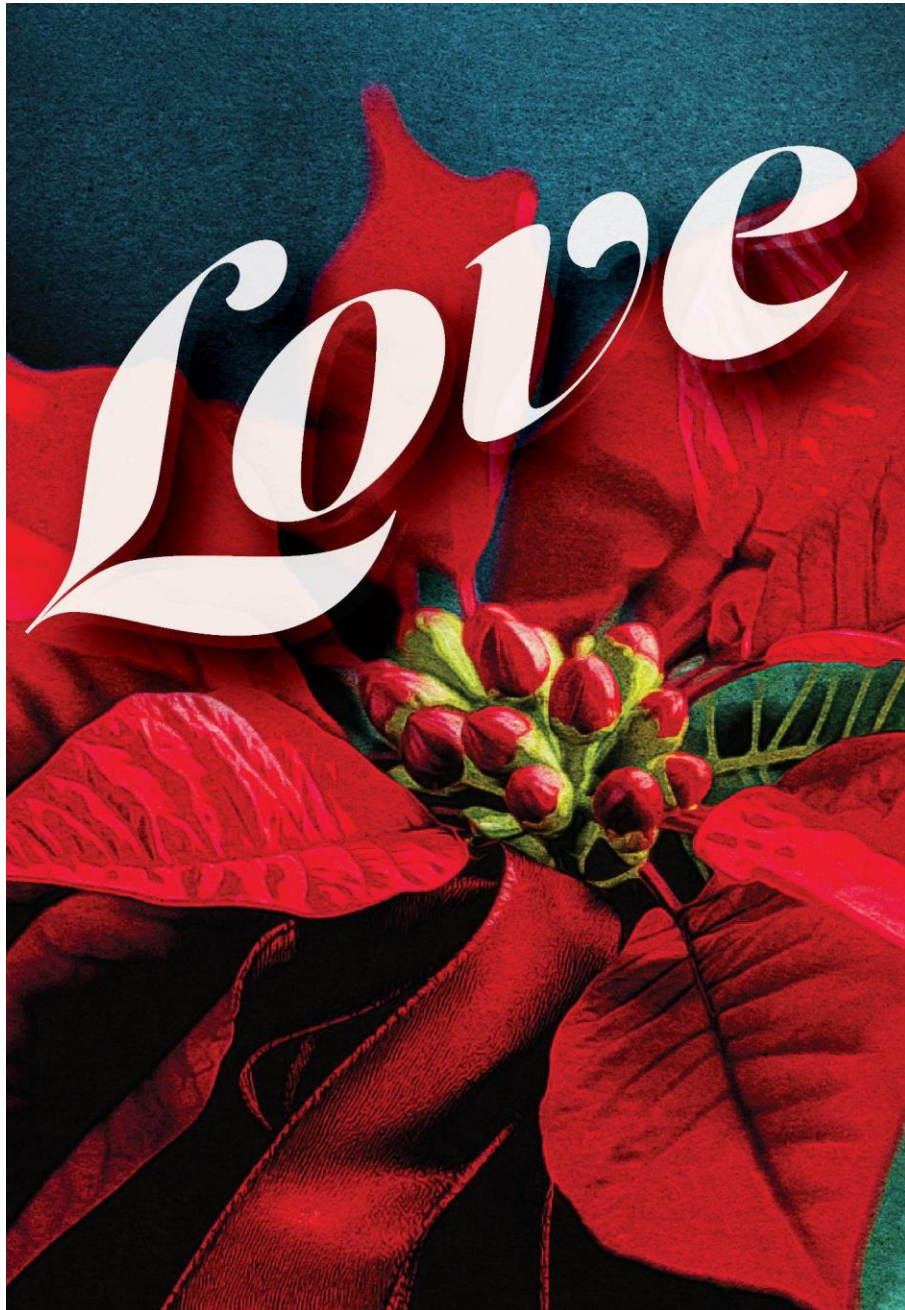


*Tappahannock Memorial  
United Methodist Church*

P. O. Box 326  
345 Earl Street  
Tappahannock, VA 22560



*“To all who mourn and need comfort,  
to all who are tired and need rest,  
to all who are lonely and need companionship,  
to all who sin and need a Savior, and to all who will,  
this church opens wide its doors.”*

# Tappahannock Memorial UMC

## Fourth Sunday Of Advent

### “Love”

December 22, 2024

Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

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#### Prelude

*“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

#### Welcome & Announcements

Good Morning! I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I welcome you to our time of worship today. I welcome those who are present with us in the sanctuary as well as those worshiping online via our Facebook and YouTube pages. We welcome your feedback as we continue offering in person and online worship.

We are tracking our attendance, so thank you in advance to all who will let us know that you have watched or read our service this morning. Please email our Administrative Assistant at [tappmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:tappmethodist@gmail.com), with your attendance information.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!!

#### \* Opening Hymn

*“Once In Royal David’s City”*

UMH #250

1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day, like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentles is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

#### \* Call to Worship

Rejoice in the presence and love of Christ.

**We rejoice in the one who lives in our hearts.**

Rejoice, for Christ brings justice and peace to our world.

**We rejoice in the one who calls us to justice and peace.**

Rejoice with faith and hope.

**We rejoice in the one whose promises are true.**

*Call to Worship from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, pg. 252. ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

#### \* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

God of ancient days and future visions,  
we come into your presence to celebrate the joy of your Holy Spirit  
and the blessing of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Full us with your Holy Spirit,  
as you filled Elizabeth long ago.

Sing through our songs of joy,  
as you sang through Mary.

Speak through our words and our thoughts,  
that we may grow closer to the justice and the peace of Christ Jesus,  
who calls us here today.

In Christ's holy and blessed name, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Prayer from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, pg. 252. ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

**Prayer of Yearning**

**Merciful Savior, you know the hunger of our hearts,  
the hurt of our world,  
and the weakness of our lives.**

**Feed us with faith and hope.**

**Comfort us with love and joy.**

**Forgive us with your grace.**

**Strengthen us with your Spirit  
and give us the faith of Mary.**

**For we yearn to proclaim your promises  
and draw strength from your vision of justice and peace in our weary world.**

**In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.**

*Prayer of Yearning from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, pg. 253. ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

**The Declaration of Pardon**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

That proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**The Ramirez Family**

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Tappahannock, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation:** God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

**Reader Two:** We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

*Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.*

**Hymn: “Light The Advent Candle”**

TFWS 2090, verse 4

**Light the Advent candle, four;  
Think of joy forevermore;  
Christ Child in a stable born,  
gift of love that Christmas morn.  
Candle, candle, burning bright,  
shining in the cold winter night;  
candle, candle, burning bright,  
fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

*“Light The Advent Candle”* Authors: Mary Lu Walker ©1975, 2001 Butterfly Productions (Admin by William Walker) CCLI Song #216714. CCLI License #2350408.

**Children’s Time**

**Pastor Becca**

**Scripture**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

**pg. 865**

*<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.*

**Scripture**

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

**pg. 224**

*<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” <sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

*Micah 5:2-5a & Hebrews 10:5-10 from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

**“The First Noel”**

**Glory Ringers**

“The First Noel” Authors: Kevin McChesney ©1992 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song #1711555.  
CCLI License #2350408.

**\* Psalter**

**Canticle of Mary**

**UMH #199**

**R: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
**my spirit rejoices in God my savior,**  
**who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.**

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

**the Almighty has done great things for me**  
**and holy is the name of the Lord,**  
**whose mercy is on those who fear God,**  
**from generation to generation.**

The arm of the Lord is strong,  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

**God has cast down the mighty from their thrones**  
**and lifted up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich empty away.

**God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,**  
**remembering the promise of mercy,**  
**the promise made to our forebears,**  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**R**

**\* The Gloria Patri**

**UMH #70**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\* Gospel**

**Luke 1:39-45**

**pg. 57**

*<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”*

Luke 1:39-45 from New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Prayer before the Sermon**

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight,

O God our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

**The Sermon**

**“Love”**

**Rev. Rebecca L. Minor**

**\* Hymn of Response**

**“Away In A Manger”**

**UMH #217**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

**UMH # 884**

**We believe in the one God,  
creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations,  
the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God manifest in the flesh,  
our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.**

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins,  
in the life of love and prayer,  
and in grace equal to every need.**

**We believe in the Word of God  
contained in the Old and New Testaments  
as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.**

**We believe in the church,  
those who are united in the living Lord  
for the purpose of worship and service.**

**We believe in the reign of God  
as the divine will realized in human society,  
and in the family of God,  
where we are all brothers and sisters.**

**We believe in the final triumph of righteousness  
and in the life everlasting. Amen.**

A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church, *United Methodist Hymnal*, no. 884. Adapt. ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

**Sharing of Our Joys & Concerns**

We want to continue to pray for the healing of the nations through this pandemic, and for all those impacted by: war – especially the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine; natural disasters; gun violence; and other catastrophic events. Remember those who have been in the hospital for treatments and surgeries, as well as for COVID 19. Remember those who are isolated with no one to interact with. Please continue to pray for: your prayer partners; our homebound folks; those in nursing, rehabilitative, and assisted living facilities; as well as for those on the front lines. I would once again ask that we pray for those who have chosen to keep their illnesses between themselves and God. While we respect their privacy, they still need

our collective prayers.

## Pastoral Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

UMH #895

**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.**

### The Offering

Please remember to keep your tithes and offerings current so that the ministries of our church can continue. You may mail them to P. O. Box 326, Tappahannock, VA 22560, use the E-Giving link available on our website [www.tappahannockmethodist.org](http://www.tappahannockmethodist.org), or download our mobile e-giving app identified on the last page of today's bulletin. Thank you for your continued support!

### The Offertory

*"What Child Is This"*

Rob Wright, Guitar

### \* Doxology

UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \* Closing Hymn

*"Joy To The World"*

UMH #246

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. 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.

\* **Benediction**

***“Go Now In Peace”***

**UMH #665**

Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
may the love of God surround you,  
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

*“Go Now In Peace”* Authors: Natalie Sleeth ©1976 Hinshaw Music Inc. (Admin by Fred Bock Music Company) CCLI Song #194317.  
CCLI License #2350408.

\* **Postlude**

***“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***

**Thank you for joining us in worship!**

## PRAYER LIST

Wright Andrews, the family of Claude Beasley, Eddie Bliss, Nancy Brumfield, Tom Burgess, Bob Burke, Faye Brooks, Sally Conway, Cookie Evans, the family of Tinker Fornash, Christian Foster, Betty Gregory, Roxanne Griffith, Bill Hendricks, Cindy Huber, Shirley Johnson, Carolyn Lewis, Ron Lucas, Jacob Magruder, Michelle Miranda, Tawana Murry, Gerry Rose, Cathy Short, Colin Smith, Rev. Dr. John Tate, Rev. Dr. Robert Taylor, Allen Turner, Bryan Wachsmuth, Barbara Watkins, Ellie Wawner, the family of Donna Williams, Betty Whitten. Inclusion and equality for the LGBTQ family and friends.

All affected by critical weather and violence, everyone who struggles with drug addiction and alcoholism, those in peril, all missing persons, those who serve in the Armed Forces, students and educators, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, and Sudan during this time of war.

## MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

SSGT Jonathan Simpson

## PRAYERS AND CARDS ARE WELCOME FOR THESE MEMBERS

Lee Black, Barbara Brooks, Jean Edwards, Cecile Farmer,  
Carol Nicholas and Edna Parrish.

*\* Please contact the office for the phone number or address for these members of our church family.*

## SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Today, December 22<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> :	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 29 <sup>th</sup> :	10:00 AM	First Sunday After Christmas
	11:15 AM	Potluck Lunch

*All meetings are offered in-person and via Zoom unless stated otherwise.*

*We seek to be the Disciples of Christ, welcoming all as we nurture  
and support one another through service and outreach.*

*Our facility is handicap accessible.*

**Pastor:** The Reverend Rebecca L. Minor, Cell Phone: (757) 870-8265

**Music Director:** Kelly Wright; **Pianist:** Beth Harvey

**Church:** 804-443-2278 / **Church Administrative Email:** tappmethodist@gmail.com

**Pastor's Office Hours:** Tue - Thu: 9 am – 2 pm