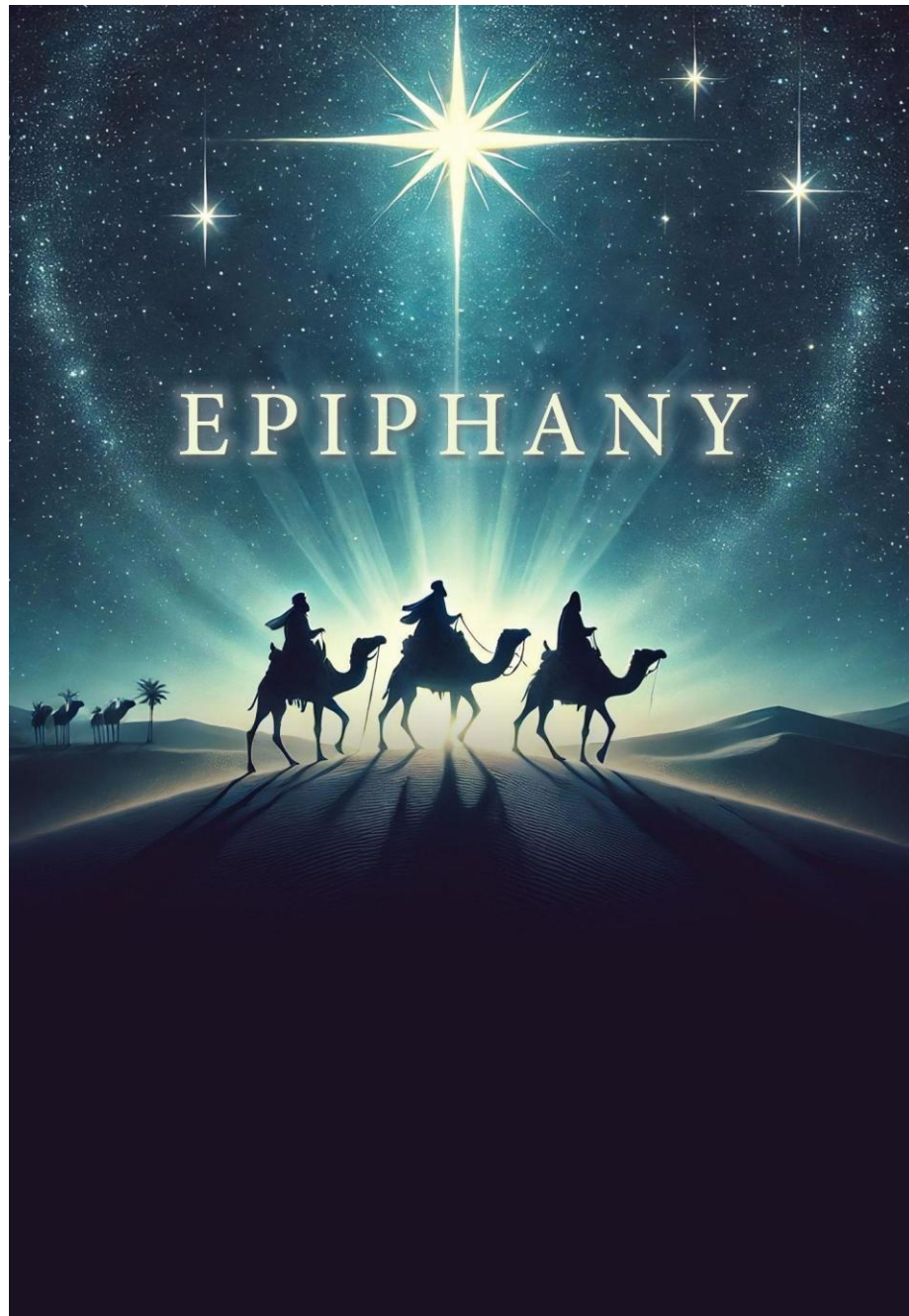


# *Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist Church*

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

## Epiphany Of The Lord

### “Committment”

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

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#### Prelude

#### “Auld Lang Syne”

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#### 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 worshipping 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

#### “We Three Kings”

UMH #254

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in a stonecold tomb.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
5. 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.

**\* Call To Worship**

In this holy season of Christmas,  
**Christ comes to us again.**  
In this quiet after the harried days of December,  
**God invites us to pause and reflect.**  
Our journey has led us here.  
**The Spirit is with us now.**  
Let us bow down as sages of old,  
**and worship Christ our King.**

*Call To Worship from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026, pg. 2. ©2025 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

**\* Opening Prayer**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.  
Christ of power and justice,  
    help us embrace the power that comes from love,  
    and guide us to seek the justice that love reveals.  
Open our hearts and minds,  
    that we may hear your wisdom  
    in this time of worship.  
Open our lives in the year ahead  
    to the power and strength of your loving Spirit.  
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Prayer from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026, pg. 2. ©2025 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

**Prayer of Yearning**

**Light of the world, we yearn to walk in the light,  
    but the shadows are all around and oh-so-familiar.**  
**Pull us from the darkness of fear of gloom—  
    familiar places where we hide  
    from you, from ourselves, and from others.**  
**Shine upon us with your grace,  
    and pull us forward with your love.**  
**For we yearn for the courage of sages of old  
    who left hearth and home to draw closer to you.**  
**Give us the passion to stand up for justice,  
    to share our gifts and talents generously,  
    and to offer our love unconditionally.**  
**For we long to build your realm upon this earth. Amen.**

*Prayer of Yearning from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026, pg. 2. ©2025 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.**

### **Anthem**

**“Gesù Bambino”**

**Kelly Wright & Beth Harvey**

*“Gesu Bambino”* Contributors: Frederick H Martens, Pietro A Yon. Permission to reprint, podcast, and /or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-737731. All rights reserved.

### **Children’s Time**

**Pastor Becca**

#### **Scripture**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

**pg. 690**

*<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses’ arms. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.*

#### **Scripture**

**Ephesians 3:1-12**

**pg. 193**

*<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.*

*Isaiah 60:1-6 & Ephesians 3:1-12 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.*

**The Word of God for the people of God.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Response 1: Praise the Lord who reigns above: Alleluia!**

Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
a song of praise is fitting.

**The Lord builds up Jerusalem;  
and gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

The Lord heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.

**The Lord determines the number of the stars,  
and gives to all of them their names.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power,  
whose understanding is beyond measure.

**The Lord lifts up the downtrodden,  
but casts the wicked to the ground. R**

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
**make melody upon the lyre to our God**  
who covers the heavens with clouds,  
prepares rain for the earth,  
makes grass grow upon the hills.

**The Lord gives to the beasts their food,  
and to the young ravens that cry.**

The Lord takes no delight in the might of a horse  
nor pleasure in the strength of a runner,  
**but the Lord takes pleasure in the faithful,  
in those who hope in the Lord's steadfast love. R**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

**The Lord strengthens the bars of your gates,  
blesses your children in your midst,**

makes peace in your borders,  
fills you with the finest wheat.

**The Lord sends forth commands to the earth;  
the word runs swiftly.**

The Lord gives snow like wool,  
scatters hoarfrost like ashes,

**Casts forth ice like morsels;  
who can withstand its cold?**

The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;  
makes the wind blow, and the waters flow.

**The Lord declares the word to Jacob,  
the statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

The Lord has not dealt thus with any other nation;

they do not know God's ordinances.

**Praise the Lord!**

**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.*

**\* The Gospel**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**pg. 2**

*<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> '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.' " <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

*Matthew 2:1-12 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**

**"Commitment"**

**Rev. Rebecca L. Minor**

**\* Hymn of Response**

**"Love Came Down At Christmas"**

**UMH #242**

1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;  
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

*"Love Came Down At Christmas"* Authors: Christina Georgina Rossetti, David Evans. ©Oxford University Press. CCLI Song #276338.  
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**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Sharing of Our Joys & Concerns**

We want to continue to pray for the healing of the nations 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 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**

#### ***"We Three Kings"***

**Lauren Ficklin & Beth Harvey**

*"We Three Kings"* Contributors: KINGS OF ORIENT. Carols, Hymns and Songs, 1863: John H. Hopkins Jr, 1820-1891, alt. Permission to reprint, podcast, and /or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-737731. All rights reserved.

#### **\* 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.

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EPIPHANY**

#### **\* A Service of Word and Table III**

**UMH # 15-16**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,  
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.  
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.  
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light  
and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in  
every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.]

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the  
bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and  
thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the  
mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be  
for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by  
his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours,  
almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **AMEN.**



And now with the confidence of children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 Breaking of the Bread and Offering of the Cup and Sharing in the Feast**

I invite all of you here in the sanctuary and those of you at home to take and receive now.

The Body of Christ broken for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Amen.

### **The Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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### **\* Closing 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 gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

### **\* The Benediction**

**\* Postlude**

**“Go Tell It On The Mountain”**

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

**PRAYER LIST**

Faye Brooks, Jean Edwards, Bruce George, Bill Hendricks, Cindy Huber, Kelly Lafollette, Warren Minton, the family of Billy Mothershead, Thomas Mundie, Whitney Orlando, Nate Parker, Russ Riles, Jack Robertson, Jane Ruffa, Jay Ruffa, the family of Rev. Reggie Rumberg, Susie Shiriak, Colin Smith, Regan Smith, Alison Sullivan, Beverly Taylor, Thomas Tignor, Nancy Tiller, Jack Titmus, Marianne Towler, Biddy Acree Walker, Barbara Watkins, Ellie Wawner, Ashley Wind. Inclusion and equality for the LGBTQ family and friends. All affected by critical weather and violence, everyone who struggles with drug addiction and alcoholism, 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**

**PRAYERS AND CARDS ARE WELCOME FOR THESE MEMBERS**

Lee Black, Jean Edwards, Betty Gregory, Edna Parrish, and Barbara Watkins.

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

**SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES**

<b>Today, January 4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Epiphany Of Our Lord Sunday</b>
	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<b>Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Leadership Board</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Wednesday Morning Group</b>
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Baptism Of Our Lord Sunday</b>
	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>

*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