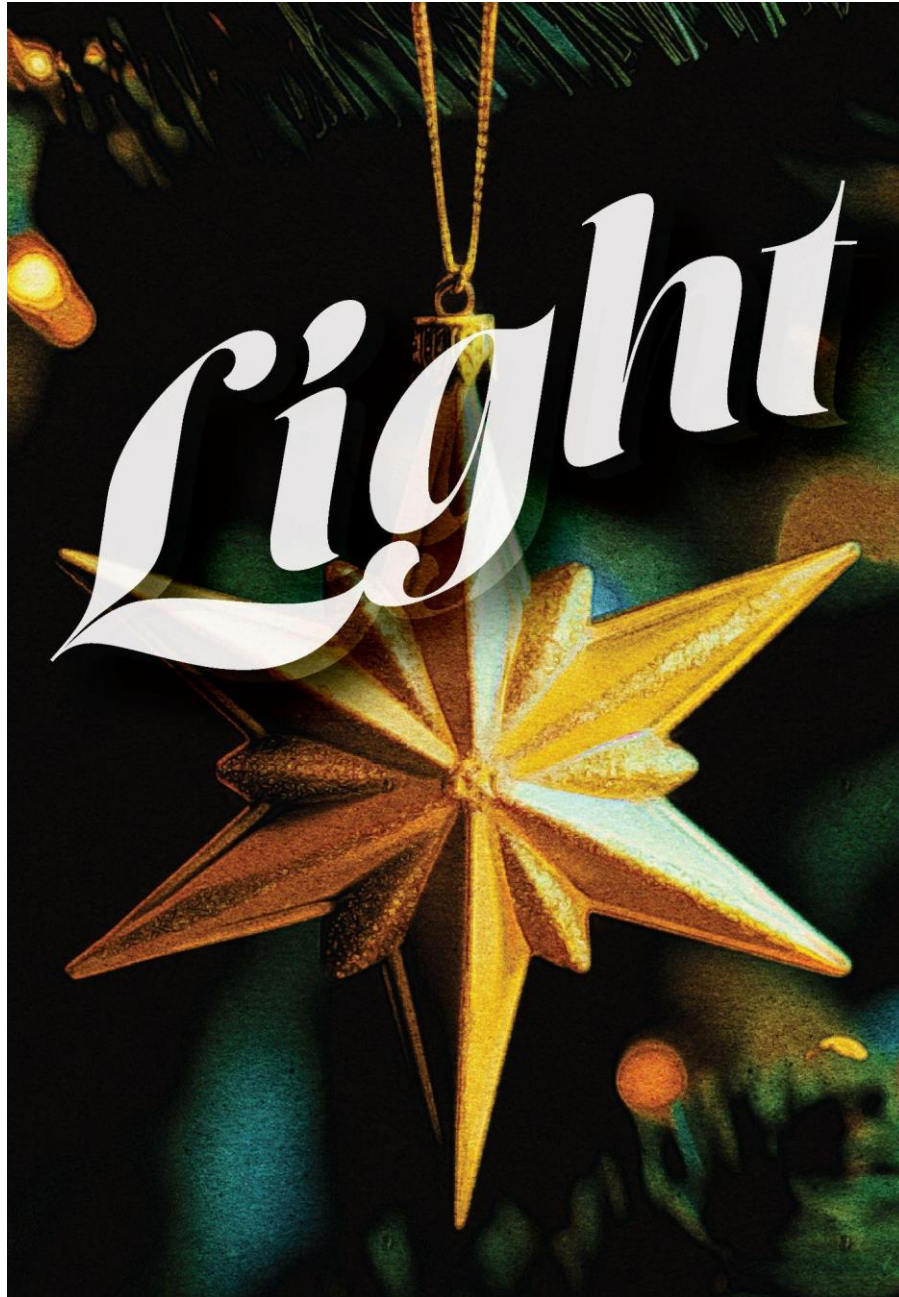


*Tappahannock Memorial  
United Methodist Church*

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

## Christmas Eve Worship

### “Signs of Christmas”

December 24, 2024

Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

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#### Prelude

#### “O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem” Contributors: Douglas Wagner, Mark Hayes. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-737731. All rights reserved.

#### Welcome & Announcements

Good evening. I welcome you to this Christmas Eve Service in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! 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 [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

#### “O Come All Ye Faithful”

#### UMH #234

*verses 1-3 & 6*

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
2. True God of True God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

#### \* Call to Worship:

All people are welcome here tonight.

**We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus' birth.**

All who walk in darkness,

**come to see a great light.**

All who hope to see God,

**come see the good news God brings.**

Rejoice before God in the light and glory of this night.

**We rejoice that God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

*Call to Worship from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, pg. 256. ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

**\* Opening Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness.

Quiet our minds on this Christmas Eve,

that we may hear the good news of your gift of Jesus Christ—

your gift to a world so in need of peace, justice and joy.

If we walk in darkness and despair,

help us see the great light of your presence.

If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ,

help us offer hope to those around us.

Help us see your glory breaking into our lives as Mary and shepherds before us saw.

In the quiet of this night, may we welcome your peace and favor,

through Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord. Amen.

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**Prayer of Yearning**

**We often come to Christmas**

**longing for a cozy story**

**of a baby born in a manger.**

**But this baby will change the world.**

**He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**

**Prince of Peace.**

**Something strong and powerful began with that infant.**

**Enlarge our minds, increase our vision,**

**and strengthen our commitment,**

**that we too may work for justice and righteousness.**

**Help us walk faithfully with him,**

**and lead us on your paths of peace. Amen.**

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**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

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.

**Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this”.**

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

*Light all the candles of the Advent wreath.*

**Hymn: “Light The Advent Candle”**

TFWS 2090, verse 5

**Light the Christmas candles, now:**

**Sing of donkey, sheep and cow;**

**birthday candles for the King,**

**let the alleluias ring.**

**Candle, candle, burning bright,**

**shining in the cold winter night;**

**candle, candle, burning bright,**

**fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

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

## Children’s Time

**Pastor Becca**

## Scriptures

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**pg. 638**

*<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

**Scriptures****Titus 2:11-14****pg. 215**

*<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.*

Isaiah 9:2-7 & Titus 2:11-14 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****“He Is Born”****Choir****\*Psalter****Psalm 96****UMH #815**

**Response: The lord comes, the Lord comes, and call creation sings for joy.**

**R**

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**Sing to the Lord, bless God’s name;  
proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**

Declare the Lord’s glory among the nations,  
the Lord’s marvelous works among all the peoples!

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,  
to be feared above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols;  
but the Lord made the heavens.

**Honor and majesty are before the Lord  
in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty. R**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name!  
Bring forth an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord!**

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;  
**tremble before the Lord, all the earth! R**

Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!  
**The Lord has established the world, it shall never be moved.  
The Lord will judge the peoples with equity.”**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it!

**Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before the Lord,  
who comes to judge the earth.**

**The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth. R**

**\* The Gloria Patri**

**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 2:1-20**

**pg. 58**

*<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

*Luke 2:1-20 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**

**"Signs of Christmas"**

**Rev. Rebecca L. Minor**

**\* Hymn of Response**

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**UMH #240**

1. 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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

## **Affirmation of Faith**

## **Apostles’ Creed**

**UMH #881**

**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 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 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**

#### **“Greensleeves”**

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\* 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 CHRISTMAS EVE**

**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 (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth. 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. In the fullness of time, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

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. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, 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.**

**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:

**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 given for you. **Amen.**  
The Blood of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

**\* Closing Hymn**

***“Silent Night”***

**UMH #239**

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

**\* Benediction**

**\* Postlude**

***“Silent Night”***

# Merry Christmas!

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