

*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

## Third Sunday Of Advent

“Joy”

December 15, 2024

Luke 1:26-2:20

<> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <> + <>

### Prelude

*“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”*

### 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

*“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

UMH #238

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Angels we have heard on high<br>sweetly singing o’er the plains,<br>and the mountains in reply<br>echoing their joyous strains.<br>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!<br>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!       | 3. Come to Bethlehem and see<br>Christ whose birth the angels sing;<br>come, adore on bended knee,<br>Christ the Lord, the newborn King.<br>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!<br>Gloria, in excelsis Deo! |
| 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?<br>Why your joyous strains prolong?<br>What the gladsome tidings be<br>which inspire your heavenly song?<br>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!<br>Gloria, in excelsis Deo! | 4. See him in a manger laid,<br>whom the choirs of angels praise;<br>Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,<br>while our hearts in love we raise.<br>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!<br>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  |

*“Angels We Have Heard On High”* Authors: Austin COle Lovelace, Edward Shippen Barnes ©1964 Abingdon Press (Admin by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song #6368346. CCLI License #2350408.

### \* Call to Worship

Rejoice, for God is here!

**God is our strength and our light.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**We will sing praises for all the earth to hear!**

*Call to Worship from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, pg. 248. ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

### \* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

God of love and joy, thank you for your presence in our lives.

During this time of worship, draw us closer to you and to one another.  
May we grow in our love for you and for our neighbor.  
May we lay aside our worries,  
trusting that you hear what lies in our hearts.  
May we dwell in your peace and be guided by the one who is to come,  
your Son, Jesus Christ.  
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Prayer from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, pg. 248. ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

### **Prayer of Yearning**

**Merciful God, it can be hard to follow your ways.  
We want to hold on to what we have.  
We want to mind our own business  
and ignore the needs of others.  
We want to follow the ways of the world  
and not your ways.  
Remind us that you offer us forgiveness  
and bring healing and redemption in our lives.  
Help us turn to you once again, that we may receive the good news  
of your endless love and grace. Amen.**

*Prayer of Yearning from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, pg. 248. ©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**

**Craig & Jeannie Harvey**

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation". With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

**Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

*Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.*

Hymn: “Light The Advent Candle”

TFWS 2090, verse 3

Light the Advent candle, three:  
Think of heavenly harmony;  
angels singing “Peace on earth”  
at the blessed Savior’s birth.  
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.

Anthem

“Sing For Joy, Ye People”

Choir

“Sing For Joy Ye People” Authors: Joseph M. Martin ©1991 GlorySound (Admin by Hal Leonard LLC) (Admin by Tom Cat Music) CCLI Song #797422. CCLI License #2350408.



*Children’s Program*

*Luke 1:26-2:20*

*“God Thinks You’re Wonderful by Max Lucado*

*Narrators: Rev. Rebecca L. Minor, Rachel Hundley*

**Narrator 2: “Our hearts are not large enough to contain the blessings that God wants to give.”**

**The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

Narrator 1: *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.*

**Narrator 2: “So promise me you’ll never forget...that you aren’t an accident or an incident...you are a gift to the world, a divine work of art signed by God. You were deliberately planned, specially gifted, and lovingly positioned on this earth...by the Master Craftsman.”**

### **Mary Visits Elizabeth**

Narrator 1: *In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’*

### **Mary’s Song of Praise**

Narrator 1: *And Mary said,*

*‘My soul magnifies the Lord,*

*and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,*

*for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.*

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;*

*for the Mighty One has done great things for me,*

*and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him*

*from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;*

*he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.*

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,*

*and lifted up the lowly;*

*he has filled the hungry with good things,*

*and sent the rich away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel,*

*in remembrance of his mercy,*

*according to the promise he made to our ancestors,*

*to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’*

*And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.*

**Narrator 2: “Untethered by time, God sees us all...vagabonds and ragamuffins all, he saw us before we were born, and he loves what he sees.”**

**Special Music**

**“Rise Up, Shepherd, And Follow”**

**Children’s Choir**

## **The Birth of John the Baptist**

Narrator 1: *Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.*

*On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.*

## **Zechariah's Prophecy**

Narrator 1: *Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:*

*'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up a mighty saviour for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.  
Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'*

*The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.*

**Narrator 2: "God's dream is to make you right with him...and the path to the cross tells us exactly how far God will go to call us back. It is not our love for God, it is God's love for us in Sending his son to be the way to take away our sins."**

## **The Birth of Jesus**

Narrator 1: *In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.*

**Special Music**

**“The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy”**

**Children’s Choir**

## **The Shepherds and the Angels**

Narrator 1: *In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,*

*‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’*

**Narrator 2: “Flooded by emotion, overcome by pride, the Starmaker turns to us, one by one, and says, “You are my child, I love you dearly”.**

Narrator 1: *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.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

**Special Music**

**“Go Tell It On The Mountain”**

**Children’s Choir**

**Narrator 2: Jesus is called Immanuel which means “God with us” Jesus is God with us. He came that we might be forgiven and have life that is full and abundant. “God does more than forgive our mistakes; he removes them! We simply have to take them to him. You can talk to God because God listens. Let a tear appear on your cheek, and he is there to wipe it... He sent his angels to care for you, his Holy Spirit to dwell in you...his church to encourage you, and his word to guide you. If you want to touch God’s heart, use the name he loves to hear. Call him Father... He thinks you’re wonderful!**



## 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

*"Do You Hear What I Hear"*

### \* 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

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

UMH #224

1. Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
give ye heed to what we say:  
News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlast hall.  
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save.

**\* 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**

***“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”***

*“He Has Come For Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)”* Authors: Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews ©2009 Spirit Nashville Three  
(Admin. By Crescendo Royalty Funding LP) Curb Songs (Admin by Curb Music Publishing) So Essential Tunes (Admin by Essential  
Music Publishing) Spirit Nashville Three (Admin by Essential Music Publishing) CCLI Song #5683022. CCLI License #2350408.

**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, the family of Jim Climaldi, Sally Conway, Cookie Evans, Tinker Fornash, Christian Foster, Betty Gregory, Roxanne Griffith, Bill Hendricks, Cindy Huber, Shirley Johnson, Carolyn Lewis, Ron Lucas, Jacob Magruder, Michelle Miranda, Tawana Murry, the family of Jean Rhines, Gerry Rose, Leslie Shaver, Cathy Short, Colin Smith, Rev. Dr. John Tate, Rev. Dr. Robert Taylor, Allen Turner, Bryan Wachsmuth, Barbara Watkins, Ellie Wawner, Betty Whitten. Inclusion & equality for the LGBTQ family & 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 15<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Sing-Along</b>
Wednesday, December 18 <sup>th</sup> :	10:30 AM	Wednesday Morning Group
Sunday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	11:15 AM	Sunday School

*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