

***Tappahannock Memorial
United Methodist Church***

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



For when the **foolish** took their lamps,
they **took no oil** with them,
but the **wise** took
flasks of oil with their lamps.

Matthew 25:3-4

*“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

24th Sunday After Pentecost

“Be Prepared”

November 12, 2023

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

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Prelude

“When Morning Guilds The Skies”

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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, with your attendance information.

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

* Opening Hymn

“Seek Ye First”

UMH# 405

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you,
Allelu, Alleluia.
2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, Alleluia.

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* Call to Worship:

God is from everlasting to everlasting.

The Holy One inhabits all eternity and everything that is, or was, or ever will be.

God is the source, guide, and goal of our lives.

We acknowledge God as the center of our lives and of our world, not ourselves.

We come today to worship God.

We come with thanks and praise.

Let us humble ourselves before God’s holy presence.

May God teach us the ways of life as we pray.

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* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
In the stillness of this moment,
 awaken us to the astonishing truth
 that your love is like the celebratory love
 of a couple on their wedding day.

Help us choose again to live in your love
 and to yield every aspect of our lives
 to your divine rule. Amen.

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Prayer of Confession

**Christ Jesus, we want to believe in your kingdom—
 a kingdom that is already, but not yet, in our midst,**

**It seems so far off as we bear our load
 of suffering and grief.**

**Some days it's easier to get discouraged and distracted,
 even to give in to the long, dark nights
 of our worries and fears.**

**Sometimes it's easier to grow numb and lose hope,
 even to forget we even know you.**

We want to trust that you haven't forgotten us.

**We want to wake up and choose to live our lives
 inside the rule of your love.**

We want to hope.

**we want to offer wisdom and encouragement
 to the generations to come.**

But we need your help.

In your mercy, hear our prayer. 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!

The Baptismal Covenant

Scriptures**Joshua 24:1-3a; 14-25****pgs. 215-216**

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; ¹⁴ "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶ Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." ¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" ²² Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." ²³ He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Scriptures**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18****pgs. 204-205**

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem**"Over My Head"****Choir**

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R: *We shall listen, Lord, to your teaching, and heed the words of your mouth.*

R

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our forebears have told us.

We will but hide from them their children,
but tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the Lord, the might,
and the wonders God has wrought. **R**

The Ephraimites, armed with the bow,
turned back on the day of battle.

They did not keep God's covenant,
but refused to walk according to God's law.

They forgot the deeds of the Lord,
the miracles that God had shown them.

The Lord wrought marvels in the sight of their forebears
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan,

the Lord divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap,

led them with a cloud in the daytime,
and all the night with a fiery light,

cleft rocks in the wilderness,
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep,
made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers. **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**

Matthew 25:1-13

pg. 28

¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake

therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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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

“Be Prepared”

Rev. Rebecca L. Minor

*** Hymn of Response “I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry”**

TFWS #2051

1. I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
2. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.
3. When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
4. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.
5. In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.
6. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.
7. I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

*** Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

UMH # 880

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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, or download our mobile e-giving app identified on the last page of today's bulletin. Thank you for your continued support!

The Offertory

“Lily Of The Valley”

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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.

*** Closing Hymn**

“Jesus Loves Me”

UMH #191

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.
2. Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying “Let them come to me.”
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.
3. Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

*** Benediction**

*** Postlude**

“Majesty”

“Majesty” Contributors: Jack Hayford © 1981 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)
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Thank you for joining us in worship!

PRAYER LIST

Wright Andrews, The family of Micha Baird, Eddie Bliss, Lois Bonhouse, Royce Burrus, Woody Campbell, Roxanne Griffith, Susie Hardwick, Maurice Hawa, Madeline Hawkins, the family of Jessica Hayes, Bill Hendricks, Lauma Hill, Cindy Huber, Betty Gregory, Carolyn Lewis, Bill Loser, Ron Lucas, Ray Massie, Mary Lou Simpson, the family of Bishop Thomas Stockton, and 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, and Europe during this time of war, everyone around the world as we fight the spread of COVID-19, and the UMC during the separation and as the church moves forward.

MILITARY: SSGT Jonathan Simpson. SA Ethan Minor while at Navy Advanced Schooling.

PRAYERS AND CARDS ARE WELCOME FOR THESE MEMBERS

Lee Black, Barbara Brooks, Jim Climaldi, Jean Edwards, Cecile Farmer,
Don and Carol Nicholas, Edna Parrish, and Jean Rhines.

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

SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Today:	10:00 AM	24th Sunday After Pentecost
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	Wednesday Morning Group
Sunday, November 19th	10:00 AM	25th Sunday After Pentecost

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