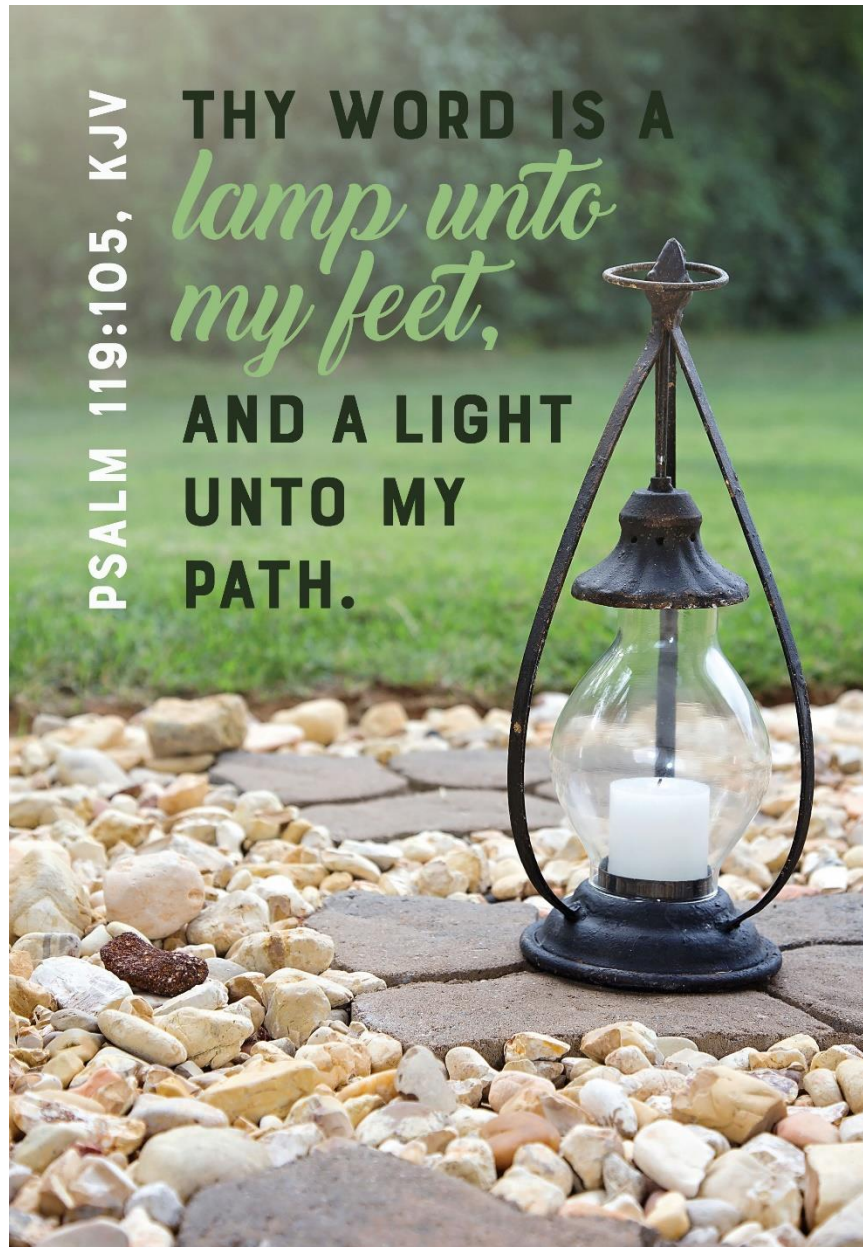


***Tappahannock Memorial
United Methodist Church***

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

8th Sunday after Pentecost

“The Soil of our Lives”

July 23, 2023

Genesis 25:19-34; Romans 8:1-11; Psalm 119:1-8, 33-48 (UMH 841); Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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Prelude *“Down to the River to Pray”*

“Down to the River to Pray” Contributor(s):Lloyd Larson. Words: Public Domain. Music: © 2005 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. By Music Services, Inc.). CCLI Song # 2350408 CCLI License # 4568784.

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

“To God Be the Glory”

UMH #98

*

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in. **R**
2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. **R**
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

* Call to Worship:

Come in from busy, summertime days to this place of worship.

We come to connect with God’s word.

Come in from the stress of everyday life into the light of knowledge.

We come as seekers of truth.

Come into worship with offerings of praise.

We come to hear the word and respond!

Call to Worship from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, pp. 131. © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

*** Opening Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Loving God, gather us into this moment of reverence, celebration, and growth. As your sons and daughters, we long for renewed faith and meaning in our lives. Christ's Parable of the Sower lights our path, with its images of rocky ground, tangled thorns, and green shoots. May the light of your word illuminate our way and become the joy of our hearts! Amen.

Opening Prayer from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, pp. 131. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Yearning

Merciful One, we often feel the burden of living, as though we've been tossed on rocky soil and left to struggle on our own. Other days, we throw ourselves too quickly onto wrong paths. We are tested by hungry birds; we are choked by thorns, and wither in the beating sun. We are here to choose different paths, confirm new oaths, admit our afflictions, and ask you to give us life again. Perfect One, show us your ways and bless us with your sacraments, that we may not stray from your road. Help us hear your word, understand it, and bear your fruit for the world.

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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!

Children's Time

Scriptures

Genesis 25:19-34

pg. 21-22

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

*'Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;*

*one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.'*

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Romans 8:1-11

pg. 157-158

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you

Genesis 25:19-34; Romans 8:1-11 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 Rose"

*** Psalter**

Psalms 119:1-8, 33-48

UMH 841

¹ Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!

² **Blessed are those who keep God's testimonies,
who seek God with their whole heart,**

³ who also do no wrong,
but walk in God's ways.

⁴ **You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast

in keeping your statutes!

**⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.

⁸ I will observe your statutes;
O forsake me not utterly!

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will keep it to the end.

**³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

**³⁶ Incline my heart to your testimonies,
and not to gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
and give me life in your ways.

**³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach which I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

**⁴⁰ Behold, I longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life!**

⁴¹ Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,
your salvation according to your promise;

**⁴² then shall I have an answer for those who taunt me,
for I trust in your word.**

⁴³ And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,
for my hope is in your ordinances.

**⁴⁴ I will keep your law continually,
for ever and ever;**

⁴⁵ and I shall walk at liberty,
for I have sought your precepts.

**⁴⁶ I will also speak of your testimonies before rulers,
and shall not be put to shame;**

⁴⁷ for I find my delight in your commandments,
which I love.

**⁴⁸ I revere your commandments, which I love,
and I will meditate on your statutes.**

*** 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 13:1-9, 18-23

pg. 13-14

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And

he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 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.

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

“The Soil of our Lives”

Rev. Rebecca L. Minor

*** Hymn of Response**

“Thy Word is a Lamp”

UMH # 601

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me, and
nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

2. Now I will not forget your love for me and
yet my heart forever is wandering. Jesus, be
my guide and hold me to your side, and I
will love you to the end.

REFRAIN

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light
unto my path.

“Thy Word” Contributor(s): Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith. Words and Music: ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. By Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI Song # 14301 CCLI License # 2350408.

*** Affirmation of Faith**

UMH # 883

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,**

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God:

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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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 and Russia; 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. Please let us know of other prayer concerns and needs.

Pastoral Prayer

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 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

“Nearer My God to Thee”

*** 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**

“Amazing Grace”

UMH # 378

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

*** Benediction**

*** Postlude**

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”



Thank you for joining us in worship!

PRAYER LIST

Bill Black, Eddie Bliss, Roxanne Griffith, Susie Hardwick, Maurice Hawa, Madeline Hawkins, Bill Hendricks, Josh Hodges, Cindy Huber, Carolyn Lewis, Bill Loser, Ray Massie, Dakota Minor, Yvonne Minor, Josiah Parker, Nate Parker, Mary Lou Simpson, 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 DEPLOYMENTS: SSGT Jonathan Simpson. Ethan Minor at Navy bootcamp.

PRAYERS AND CARDS ARE WELCOME FOR THESE MEMBERS

Lee Black, Barbara Brooks, Jim Climaldi, Jean Edwards, Cecile Farmer,
Don and Carol Nicholas, Edna Parrish, Eleanor Rehm, 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	8th Sunday After Pentecost Worship Service
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	Wednesday Morning Group
Thursday:	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	VCU On-Site Mobile Health & Wellness
Sunday, July 30 th :	10:00 AM	9 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service

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