

***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.”*

Christmas Eve

“Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy”

Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Psalm 96 (UMH 815); Luke 2:1-20

December 24, 2022

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Prelude

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Glory Ringers

“O Little Town of Bethlehem.” Contributor(s): Janet Van Valey, Lewis Redner, Susan Berry. Tune © 1988 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services). 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 & Registration of Attendance

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 are watching or read our service for his evening. 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

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

UMH # 240

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born 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!" **{R}**

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. **{R}**

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. **{R}**

* Call to Worship:

Sing, choirs of angels.

Sing in exaltation.

Let the shepherds in the fields rejoice.

Let the stars in the sky worship the newborn king.

For heaven has come down to earth.

Salvation has come to our homes this day.

Sing, choirs of angels.

Sing in exaltation.

Call to Worship from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*, pg. 299. Copyright © 2021 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

* **Opening Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of love, choirs of angels sang to your glory on the night of Jesus's birth. Open our mouths to sing your praise, that we might join the heavenly chorus. As the shepherds left their sheep in the fields may we leave our cares behind, that we too may find the hope of our salvation in the Christ child. On this most holy of nights, may our worship befit the Prince of Peace, who came to show us the depths of your love. Amen.

Opening Prayer from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*, pp. 299-300. Copyright © 2021 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Yearning

Source of joy, you are the author of everlasting life. Touch us with the wonder of that holy night when your Son came into the world. For we yearn to leave the shadows behind to walk in darkness no more. We long to behold your light shining in our lives, as it shined in the stars above on the night love came down at Christmas. Guide our steps to the manger, and make us instruments of your justice and peace, that the gift of your salvation may reside in every corner of the globe. We ask this in the name of our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Prayer of Yearning from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*, pg. 300. Copyright © 2021 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

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

CHRISTMAS EVE ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Harvey Family

Reader 1: We have heard the call to keep watch. But what are we keeping watch over? Maybe we're looking for something that will define us, something that will remake us, transform us.

Reader 2: Some relationship, some hope, some love that will make us new. Maybe we're looking for the gift we remember this night.

Reader 3: O holy Child of Bethlehem. Descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born to us today. We hear the Christmas angels. The great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us. Our Lord Emmanuel.

Reader 4: What we go out to see in the muddle of our world is not necessarily the Christ child or the light that glows within. No, I think what we watch over is the world that he came to save: the masses of humanity who think they can find salvation in the stuff of this life, like we know we do sometimes. When we forget. A world that has room for a Savior, even when we've forgotten it.

Reader 5: And part of what we're keeping watch for is to see whether we can make room—room for grace, room for joy, room for peace, even at our worst. At our most needy. And most helpful, and grace-filled. Keep watch.

Reader 6: Let us light these candles and complete this circle as we rejoice in the light that shines in the darkness and declare with joy and with hope –

Congregation: Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Hallelujah. Amen.

“Advent Song”

**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 Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022,” by Derek Weber. © 2022 Discipleship Ministries. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

Children’s Time

The Reverend Rebecca Minor

Scriptures

Isaiah 9:2-7

pg. 638

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

Titus 2:11-14

pg. 215

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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 and 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

“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine”

Choir

* Psalter

Psalm 96

UMH # 815

¹O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**²Sing to the Lord, bless God’s name;
proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**

³Declare the Lord’s glory among the nations,
the Lord’s marvelous works among all the peoples!

**⁴For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
to be feared above all gods.**

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols;
but the Lord made the heavens.

**⁶Honor and majesty are before the Lord
In whose sanctuary are strength and beauty.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

**⁸Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name!
Bring an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord!**

⁹Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

tremble before the Lord, all the earth!

¹⁰Say 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.”

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy

¹³before the Lord; who comes to judge the earth.

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

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

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And

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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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, 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

“Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy”

Rev. Rebecca L. Minor

*** Hymn of Response**

“The First Noel”

UMH # 245, v. 1-3

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep. **{R}**
2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. **{R}**
3. And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. **{R}**

*** 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 and Russia; natural disasters; 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 Offering *Special Offering: Security System w/ Fire & Smoke Detectors, and Cameras*

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 app: Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Thank you for your continued support!

The Offertory *“O Holy Night”*

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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:

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 given for you. **Amen.**

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

Communion Music

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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**

“Silent Night”

UMH # 239

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|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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!</p> <p>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!</p> |
|--|--|

*** Benediction**

*** Postlude**

“Silent Night”



Have a Safe and Merry Christmas!

SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Today: **5:00 pm** **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
Special Offering:
Safety & Security System

Sunday, Dec 25: **Merry Christmas**
10:00 am **Christmas Day Worship Service**
Special Offering:
Safety & Security System

Tuesday: Choir Rehearsal Will Resume on January 3rd

Wednesday: WMG Meetings Will Resume on January 4th

Saturday: **New Year's Eve!**

Sunday, Jan 1: **Happy New Year & Welcome 2023!**
10:00 am **Epiphany Sunday Worship Service**
Special Offering:
Safety & Security System

*The church office will be closed from Saturday, Dec 24th through Monday, January 2nd.
Please contact Pastor Becca if you need assistance during this time.*

Pastor: The Reverend Rebecca L. Minor, Cell Phone: 757-870-8265

Minister of Congregational Life: The Reverend Barbara M. Jacobs

Co-Music Directors: Rob & Kelly Wright

Pianist: Beth Harvey

Administrative Assistant: Cindy Huber, Cell Phone (540) 223-2835

Church: 804-443-2278 / **Church Administrative Email:** tappmethodist@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Thu: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Administrative Assistant's Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

This Evening's Leaders:

Lector: Alan Jacobs

Ushers & Registrars:

Mary Barrack, Craig Harvey,

Alan Jacobs, Jim Wawner

Videographers: John Harvey, Rodney Minor, & Ethan Minor

Special thanks to ...

... the TMUMC Choir and the Glory Ringers, led by Kelly Wright!

... our pianist, Beth Harvey!

*... our team of videographers: John Harvey; Rodney Minor; and Ethan Minor,
for making it possible to share our worship services online!*