

***Tappahannock Memorial
United Methodist Church***

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



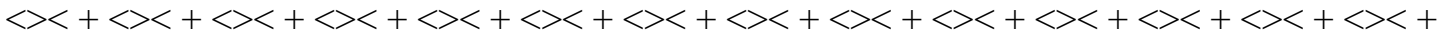
*“To all who mourn and need comfort,
to all who are tired and need rest,
to all who are lonely and need companionship,
to all who sin and need a Savior, and to all who will,
this church opens wide its doors.”*

3rd Sunday of Advent

“Lowly & Blessed”

December 11, 2022

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Luke 1:46b-55 (UMH 199); Matthew 11:2-11



Prelude

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

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Welcome, Announcements & Registration of Attendance

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

“Once in Royal David’s City”

UMH # 250

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.</p> <p>3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.</p> | <p>2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.</p> <p>4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.</p> |
|---|--|

* Call to Worship

Rejoice! God’s promises are ever near.

We wait for Christ’s birth with patience.

Rejoice! God’s strength is with us.

We rest in the power of God’s mighty love!

Rejoice! We gather in the joy of our salvation.

In this love, we gather to worship and pray.

Call to Worship from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*, pg. 290. © 2021 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Promised One, enter our hearts anew. Enter our worship with your promised presence, that we may know you better. Enter our lives and our world, that we may proclaim your presence and sing your praises. With joyous gratitude, we pray in your precious name. Amen.

Opening Prayer from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*, pg. 290. © 2021 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Yearning

God of promise, be with us in our hour of need. Grant us hope, when despair overwhelms us. Grant us healing and mercy, when illness and injury sap our strength. Grant us life and growth, when death and stagnation threaten us. Grant us patience and perseverance, when we grow weary of awaiting the coming of your kingdom. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Yearning from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*, pp. 290-291. © 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!

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.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Ward-Dahl Family

THE LORD'S HIGHWAY

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10

Reader One: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10 NRSV).

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God’s house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

Reader One: The Psalmist says “Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 146 NRSV)

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God’s promise.



“Advent Song”

**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.**

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

Children’s Time

The Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

pg. 663

*35*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7-10

pg. 231

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not

grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰*As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*

Isaiah 35:1-10 and James 5:7-10 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

“God Almighty, We Are Waiting”

Choir

“God Almighty, We Are Waiting.” Contributor(s): Ann Bell Worley, Rowland Hugh Prichard. Words: © 2005 Hope Publishing Company. Tune: Public Domain.. CCLI Song # 7169484. CCLI License # 2350408.

*** Canticle**

Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46b-55)

UMH # 199

⁴⁶My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**
⁴⁸**who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.**

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

⁴⁹**the Almighty has done great things for me**
and holy is the name of the Lord,
⁵⁰**whose mercy is on those who fear God**
from generation to generation.

⁵¹The arm of the Lord is strong,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

⁵²**God has cast down the mighty from their thrones**
and lifted up the lowly.

⁵³God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,**
remembering the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵**the promise made to our forebears,**
to Abraham and to his children for ever.

Luke 1:46b-55 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 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 11:2-11

pg. 11

²*When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”*

⁷*As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before*

you.’¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:2-11 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.

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

“Lowly & Blessed”

Rev. Rebecca L. Minor

*** Hymn of Response**

“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 everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save!

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” United Methodist Hymnal, no. 224. Harmony by Gary Alan Smith (1988). Harm © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*** Affirmation of Faith**

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 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

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

“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**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

UMH # 221

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

“How Great Our Joy”

“How Great Our Joy.” Contributor(s): Don Chapman. © 2005 Hearts to God Music, Inc.. CCLI Song # 5248371. CCLI License # 2350408.

Thank you for joining us in worship!



PRAYER LIST

Dave Baker Tri Blanks, Eddie Bliss, Alice Boyd, Priscilla Carter and husband, family of Donna Gullstrand Davidson, Olivia Egge, Brock & Tammy Fielder, Peyton & Mae Lynne Guest, Ronnie Harvey, Bill Hendricks, Josh Hodges, Rev. Steve Hundley, Rev. Barb & Alan Jacobs, Jean Johnson, Paige Klemm, Tenley & Hailey and Robin & Bill Kuhnert, Vicky La Follette's cousin Teresa, Carolyn Lewis, Kathleen MacDonald, family of Rev. Dr. Wayne A. MacDonald, Jacob McGuckin, the Micklens family, the Mullins Family, Janet Murphy, Monica Newsham, Eleanor Rehm, Mary Lou Simpson, John & Debbie Snyder, Jackson Titmus, and Brody Verlander. 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 throughout Europe during this time of war, everyone around the world as we fight the spread of COVID-19, and the UMC during the upcoming separation and as the church moves forward.

MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS: SSGT Jonathan Simpson.

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 any of these members of our church family*

SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Today:	10:00 am	3rd Sunday of Advent Worship w/ Choir
	11:15 am	Sunday School: In-person only
	3:00 pm	"Christmas Greatest Hits": In-person Only A musical service benefiting the Essex High School Music Dept
Tuesday:	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal: In-person only
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Wednesday Morning Group
Sunday, Dec 18:	8:30 am	Glory Ringers' Rehearsal
	10:00 am	4 th Sunday of Advent Worship w/ Choir Special Offering: UM Family Services
Monday, Dec 19:	11:15 am	Appreciation Luncheon for Rev. Barb
	7:00 pm	Administrative Council Meeting
Saturday, Dec 24:	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, Dec 25:

Merry Christmas

10:00 am Christmas Day 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

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 - Thu: 9am - 2pm; **Admin Hours:** Working Offsite/Flexible Hours