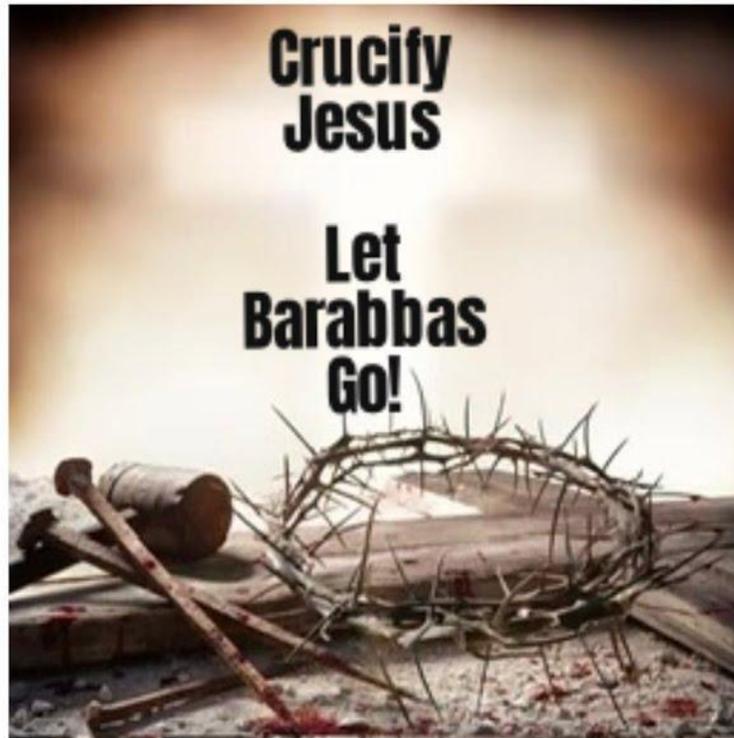


Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist Church

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 In Lent

March 8, 2026

“Unlikely Freedom”

Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; Matthew 27:11-26

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Prelude

“Give Me Jesus”

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

“We Have Come At Christ’s Own Bidding”

TFWS #2103

1. We have come at Christ’s own bidding to this high and holy place, where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God’s grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.
2. Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes and flesh-joined Word, Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet: Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.
3. Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline, we, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

“We Have Come At Christ’s Own Bidding- Transfiguration” Contributors: Carl P Daw. ©1988 Hope Publishing Company. Permission to reprint, podcast, and /or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-737731. All rights reserved.

* Call To Worship

Worship God with joy and thanksgiving.

Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

We are the sheep of God’s pasture.

We are the lambs of God’s flock.

Come! Let us worship the Lord.

Call To Worship from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026*, pg. 51. ©2025 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Living water, flow through our hearts today.
Quench our thirst in our desert wanderings,
and strengthen us for the road ahead.
Bathe us in your fountain of eternal life,
that our spirits may flow with faith and love,
through the power of your eternal Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026, pg. 51. ©2025 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Yearning

**Wellspring of salvation, quench our thirst this day.
When our souls are parched,
we long to taste the healing waters
of your grace.
When our spirits are as dry as desert sands,
we yearn to find renewal in the well
of your mercy and your love.
Shower us in your living water
that we may be washed clean in the river
of your forgiveness and your grace. Amen.**

Prayer of Yearning from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026, pg. 51. ©2025 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.

Anthem

“O How He Loves You And Me”

Choir

“Oh How He Loves You And Me” Authors: Kurt Kaiser. ©1975 Curb Word Music (Admin by WC Music Corp.). CCLI Song #15850.
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Children's Time

Pastor Becca

Scripture

Exodus 17:1-7

pg. 64

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They

are almost ready to stone me.”⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go.”⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Scripture

Romans 5:1-11

pg. 155

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Exodus 17:1-7 & Romans 5:1-11 from New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©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.

*** Psalter**

Psalm 95

UMH #814

Response 1: Harden not your hearts; listen to God’s voice.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great Ruler above all gods,

in whose hands are the depths of the earth

and also the heights of the mountains.

The sea belongs to God who made it,

and the dry land, because God formed it.

R

O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For the Lord is our God,

we are the people of God’s pasture,

the sheep of God's hand.

Hear the voice of the Lord today!

Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

when your forebears tested me,

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

For forty years I loathed that generation

**and said, "They are a people who err in heart,
and they do not regard my ways."**

Therefore I swore in my anger

that they should not enter my rest.

R

*** The Gloria Patri**

UMH #70

*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.*

*** The Gospel**

Matthew 27:11-26

pg. 32

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" ²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

Matthew 27:11-26 from New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©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.

*** Hymn of Response**

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

UMH #298

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*** 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 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, or download our mobile e-giving app identified on the last page of today's bulletin. Thank you for your continued support!

The Offertory

“God Of Wonders”

“God Of Wonders” Authors: Marc Byrd, Steve Hindalong. ©2000 Never Say Never Songs (Admin by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc) New Spring (Admin by Brentwood-Benson Publishing Inc) Meaux Mercy (Admin by Capitol CMG Publishing) Storm Boy Music (Admin by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI Song #3118757. CCLI License #2350408.

*** 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**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

UMH #127

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

*** The Benediction**

“Shalom To You”

UMH #666

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

*** Postlude**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Thank you for joining us in worship!

PRAYER LIST

Faye Brooks, the family of Nancy Ball, the family and friends of Xzayviia “Zay” Bundy, Bill Croxton, Frauke Darnell, Jean Edwards, Bruce George, Jim Glass, Beth Harvey, the family of Bill Hendricks, Cindy Huber, Kelly Lafollette, Warren Minton, Thomas Mundie, Whitney Orlando, Arty Ramirez, Russ Riles, Jack Robertson, Jane Ruffa, Jay Ruffa, Colin Smith, Regan Smith, Alison Sullivan, Beverly Taylor, Thomas Tignor, Nancy Tiller, Biddy Acree Walker, Barbara Watkins, Ellie Wawner, Jim Wawner, Betty Whitten, Ashley Wind. Inclusion and equality for the LGBTQ family and friends. All affected by critical weather and violence, everyone who struggles with drug addiction and alcoholism, 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

PRAYERS AND CARDS ARE WELCOME FOR THESE MEMBERS

Lee Black, Jean Edwards, Betty Gregory, Edna Parrish, and Barbara Watkins.

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

SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Today, March 8th:	10:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent
	11:15 AM	Sunday School
Monday, March 9 th :	6:00 PM	Leadership Board
Tuesday, March 10 th :	10:00 AM	Church Activity Group
Wednesday, March 11 th :	10:30 AM	Wednesday Morning Group
	6:30 PM	Choir
Sunday, March 15 th :	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent
	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