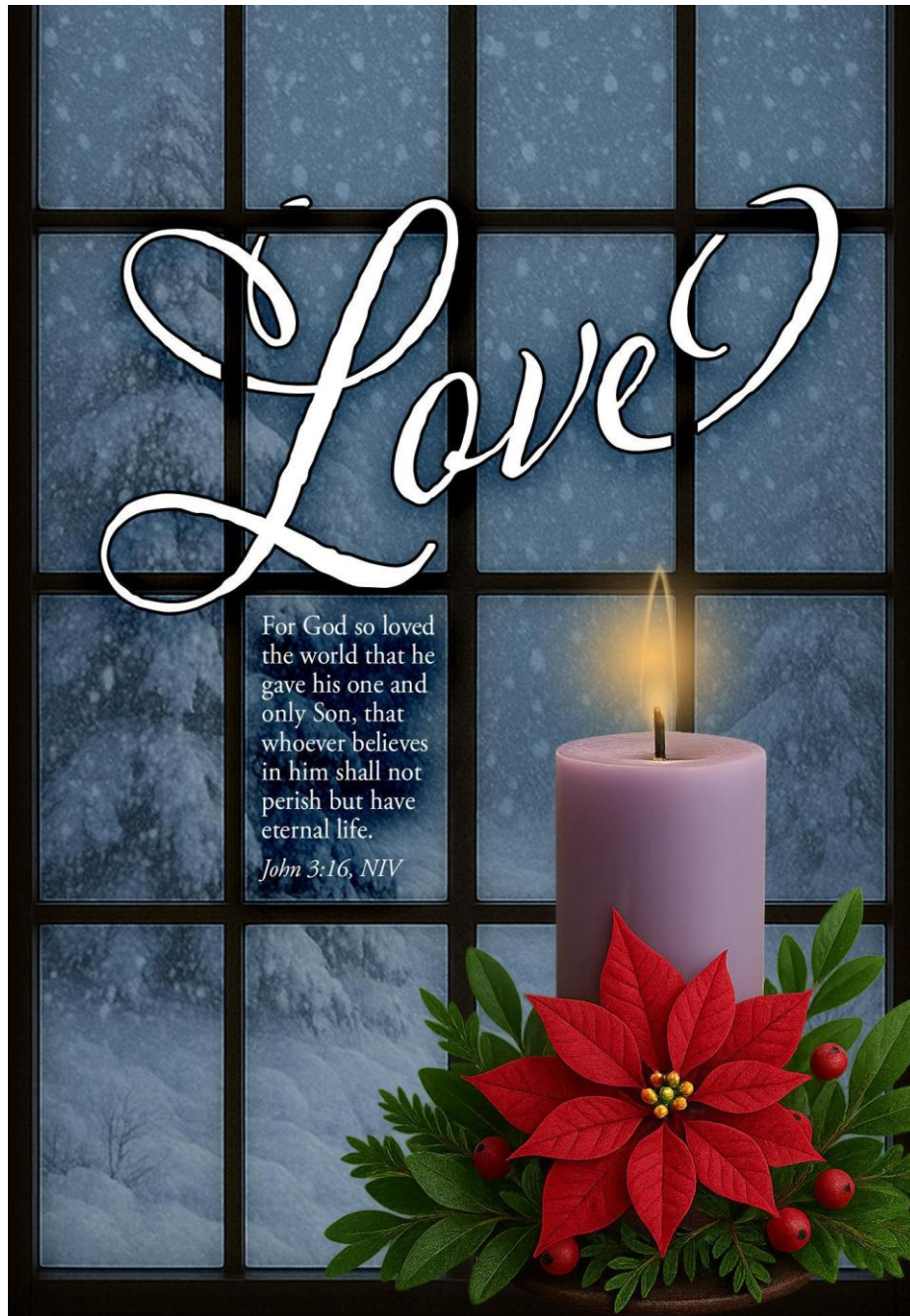


Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist Church

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Love”

Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

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Prelude

“The First Noel”

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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

“Angels From The Realms Of Glory”

UMH #220

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth,
ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

* Call To Worship

The signs are there: God’s love comes again,
showering us with the light of Christ!

**O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine,
that we may be saved.**

With anticipation of the divine, we remain expectant and marvel at the steadfast faith of Mary and Joseph.

**O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine,
that we may be saved.**

The time is nearly upon us.

Preparations are almost complete.

Are we ready for change?

**O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine,
that we may be saved.**

Worship and praise God for these signs of hope and love!

**O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine,
that we may be saved.**

Call To Worship from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025, pg. 291. ©2024 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

*** Opening Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

In this season of love, hope and family,

grant us joy and peace this day. You offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago—
signs that their son would be the Messiah, Emmanuel.

May your light shine on us here,

that we might understand the signs in our lives.

We come with open hearts and minds

to hear of your love coming into the world.

We come to hear of a young woman with child,

a foster father with trust in God,

a match you made in heaven

to shepherd a tiny boy to his destiny.

Holy God, show us your peace

as we make ready for your light in the world!

Opening Prayer from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025, pg. 292. ©2024 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Yearning

We lay our burdens before you, O Lord,

with our lives open and ready to receive your light and love.

Lead us toward your Son, Jesus, Emmanuel,

as we continue to wander with you in faith.

Thank you for the many signs of your love,

sent in your infinite wisdom.

May we have the faith of Mary and Joseph, and may we be your attendants,

anxious for the coming of your light once again. Amen.

Prayer of Yearning from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025, pg. 292. ©2024 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.

Reception of New Members

UMH #38

As *members* of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service and your witness?

I will.

Members of the household of God,
I commend *these persons* to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase *their* faith,
confirm *their* hope, and perfect *them* in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.

Lighting of The Advent Wreath

The Ward-Dahl Family

Reader One: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

Congregation: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath.

Hymn: “Light The Advent Candle”

TFWS 2090, verse 4

**Light the Advent candle, four:
Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born,
gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright,
shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright,
fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

“Advent Song” Author: Mary Lu Walker. ©1975, 2001 Butterfly Productions (Admin by William Walker). CCLI Song #216714. CCLI License #2350408.

Anthem

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

Glory Ringers

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Children’s Time

Pastor Becca

Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-16

pg. 636

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Scripture

Romans 1:1-7

pg. 152

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 7:10-16 & Romans 1:1-7 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 80 (response 1)

UMH #801

Response 1: I am the vine; you are the branches, rooted in faith and love.

Give ear, O shepherd of Israel,
you you lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!
In the presence of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

**Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!** R

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.

**You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.**

The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;

**it sent out its branches to the sea,
and its shoots to the river.**

Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

**The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.** R

Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see:

**have regard for this vine,
the stock which your right hand planted.**

They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance!

**But let your hand be upon those of your right hand,
the ones whom you have made strong for yourself!**

Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name!

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
let your face shine, that we may be saved!** R

*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 1:18-25

pg. 1

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 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.

The Sermon

"Love"

Rev. Rebecca L. Minor

*** Hymn of Response**

"What Child Is This"

UMH #219

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

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.

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada, *United Methodist Hymnal*, no. 883, by permission of The United Church of Canada.

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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, 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

"Joy To The World"

"Joy To The World" Authors: Carol TORnquist, George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts. ©1998, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2008 Curb Word Music (Admin by WC Music Corp.) CCLI Song #3013443. 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**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

UMH #240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
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.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heavenborn 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.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

*** The Benediction**

"Prepare The Way Of The Lord"

UMH #207

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.

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*** Postlude**

"Welcome Christmas"

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Thank you for joining us in worship!

PRAYER LIST

Faye Brooks, Jean Edwards, Bruce George, Bill Hendricks, Kelly Lafollette, Timothy McKinley, Warren Minton, Thomas Mundie, Whitney Orlando, Nate Parker, Russ Riles, Jack Robertson, Jane Ruffa, Jay Ruffa, Susie Shiriak, Colin Smith, Regan Smith, Alison Sullivan, Beverly Taylor, Thomas Tignor, Nancy Tiller, Jack Titmus, Marianne Towler, Biddy Acree Walker, Barbara Watkins, Ellie Wawner, Ashley Wind, and the family of Devin Woodland. 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

LTC Matt Redmond

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, December 21st:	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	11:15 AM	Sunday School
Monday, December 22nd:	5:00-6:30 PM	Community Dinner
Sunday, December 28th:	10:00 AM	First Sunday After Christmas
	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