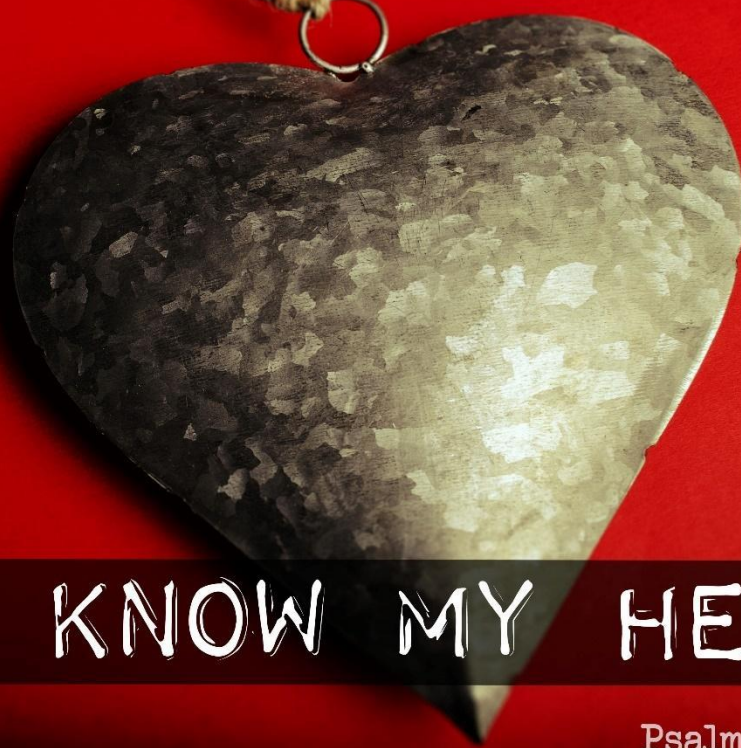


***Tappahannock Memorial  
United Methodist Church***

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

SEARCH ME, O GOD,



AND KNOW MY HEART!

Psalm 139:23, ESV

*“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

## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### “God’s Searching Love”

July 16, 2023

Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (UMH 854); Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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Prelude

*“Minuet”*

#### 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](mailto: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

*“Jesus Loves Me”*

UMH #191

\*

1. Jesus loved me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The bible tells me so.
2. Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.” Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The bible tells me so.
3. Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The bible tells me so.

“Jesus Loves Me” Contributor: Anna Warner, David R. McGuire, William B. Bradbury All Rights Reserved. ASCAP. 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:

This is none other than the house of God.

This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

God hems us in, behind and before, and lays hands of blessing upon us.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for us.**

**It is so high we cannot attain it.**

Rest in the majesty of our God.

Give thanks and sing of God's glory.

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Call to Worship from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, pp. 135. © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

### \* **Opening Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Caretaker of our souls, you search us and know us; you are acquainted with all of our ways. Your Spirit hems us in, behind and before. You discern our thoughts from afar. If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead us, and your might shall hold us fast. How can we bear such wonder? How can we fathom such awe and splendor? Breathe your Spirit upon us, and claim us as children of light, that we might be found worthy of your love and care. Amen.

Opening Prayer from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, pg. 135. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

### **Prayer of Yearning**

**Holy Mystery, we yearn to grow closer to you this day. When our spirits grow unsettled and groan in travail like our warming planet, meet us in our need. When we seek isolation from the rancor of our time, remind us how the wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. When we feel captive to the pressures of this world, remind us that we need not succumb to our fears, for you have given us a spirit of adoption as children of God. Pursue us and hold us near, Gentle One, that we may truly be set free. Amen.**

Prayer of Yearning from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, pp. 136. Copyright © 2022 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!**

### **Children's Time**

### **Scriptures**

**Genesis 28:10-19a**

**pg. 25**

*Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give*

*to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!’ And he was afraid, and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’*

*So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.*

**Romans 8:12-25**

**pg. 158**

*So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25 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.**

**\* Psalter**

**Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24**

**UMH 854**

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
- <sup>2</sup> **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**
- <sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> **Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it altogether.**
- <sup>5</sup> You pursue me behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high, I cannot attain it.**
- <sup>7</sup> Whither shall I go from your spirit?  
**Or whither shall I flee from your presence?**
- <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- <sup>9</sup> **If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**
- <sup>10</sup> **even there your hand shall lead me,**

**and your right hand shall hold me.**

<sup>11</sup> If I say, 'Let only darkness cover me,  
and the light about me be night',

<sup>12</sup> **even the darkness is not dark to you,  
the night is bright as the day;  
for darkness is as light with you.**

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts;

<sup>24</sup> **and see if there be any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!**

**\* 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 13:24-30, 36-43**

**pg. 14-15**

*He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'*

*Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!*

*Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 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**

**"God's Searching Love"**

**Rev. Rebecca L. Minor**

**\* Hymn of Response**

**“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”**

**UMH 418**

1. We are climbing Jacob’s ladder; we are climbing Jacob’s ladder, we are climbing Jacob’s ladder; soldiers of the cross.
2. Every round goes higher, higher; every round goes higher, higher, every round goes higher, higher; soldiers of the cross.
3. Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Soldiers of the cross.
4. If you love him, why not serve him? If you love him, why not serve him? If you love him, why not serve him? Soldiers of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher; we are climbing higher, higher, we are climbing higher, higher; soldiers of the cross.

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

**UMH # 884**

**We believe in the one God,  
creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations,  
the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God manifest in the flesh,  
our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.**

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins,  
in the life of love and prayer,  
and in grace equal to every need.**

**We believe in the Word of God  
contained in the Old and New Testaments  
as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.**

**We believe in the church,  
those who are united in the living Lord  
for the purpose of worship and service.**

**We believe in the reign of God  
as the divine will realized in human society,  
and in the family of God,  
where we are all brothers and sisters.**

**We believe in the final triumph of righteousness  
and in the life everlasting. Amen.**

A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church, *United Methodist Hymnal*, no. 884. Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

**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](http://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!

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Special Offering for Jacob's Ladder

### **The Offertory**

#### ***"This Little Light of Mine"***

"This Little Light of Mine" Contributor(s): African American Traditional. Mark Patterson. Choristers Guild. CCLI Song #7190097 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**

#### ***"I've Got Peace Like A River"***

**TFWS # 2145**

- 1.** I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.
- 2.** I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, and I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, and I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

3. I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul. I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

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\* **Benediction**

\* **Postlude**

**"Peace Like a River"**

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*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

<b>Today:</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost Worship Service</b>
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	Wednesday Morning Group
Thursday:	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	VCU On-Site Mobile Health & Wellness
Saturday:	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Farmers Market
Sunday, July 16 <sup>th</sup> :	10:00 AM	8 <sup>th</sup> 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