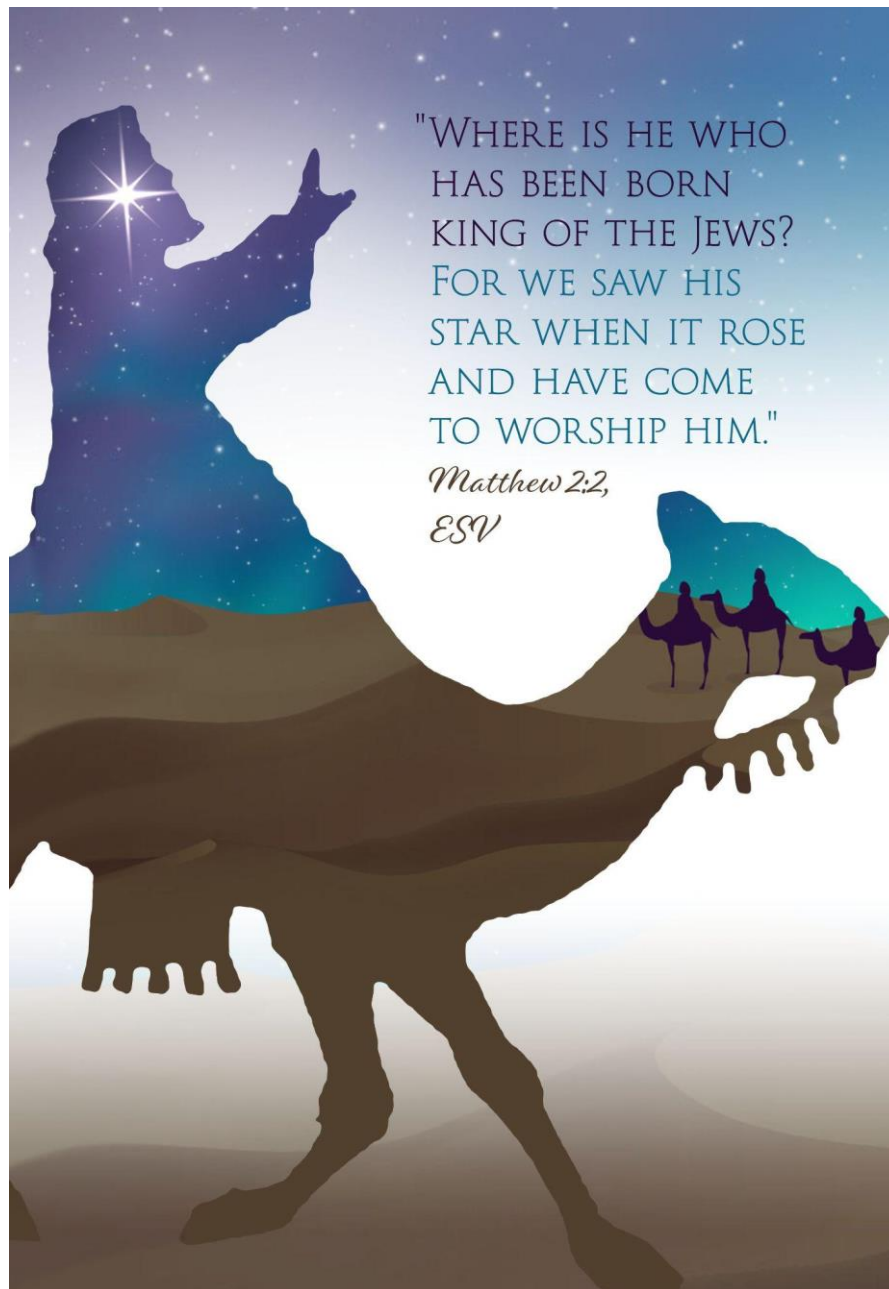


Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist Church

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

Epiphany of the Lord

“Arise Shine”

December 31, 2023

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

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Prelude

“Auld Lang Syne”

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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 worshiping 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

“The First Noel”

UMH #245

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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same start three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o’er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

* Call to Worship:

Christ’s light is shining,
calling us to respond with joy.

Christ’s light is shining.
calling us to worship and praise.

Call to Worship from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, pg. 9. ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

*** Opening Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God of glory and grace, shine upon our worship
with your presence.

Shine in our hearts with your love.

Shine in our lives with your grace,
that we may arise with confidence

and go forth to bring your justice and love to all.

Amen.

Prayer from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*, pg. 9. Copyright ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

*** Opening Prayer**

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Amen.

Prayer from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*, pg. 9. Copyright ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, grant us the grace to behold your glory
and offer us the assurance that your loving light
will not burn us.**

**Grant us the confidence
that we too can shine your light in our world.**

**Remove the lampshades of fear and shame
that hide our light.**

**Dust off the cobwebs of doubt and despair
that shadow our light.**

**Shine in and through us,
that your light may brighten our World. Amen.**

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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.

Scriptures**Isaiah 60:1-6****pg. 690**

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Scriptures**Ephesians 3:1-12****pg. 193**

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Isaiah 60:1-6 & Ephesians 3:1-12 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 Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”/“We Three Kings”****Rockfish Band*****Psalter****Psalm 72****UMH #795**

Response: I will give you as a light to the nations, my salvation to the ends of the earth.

R

Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the royal son!

May he judge your people with righteousness,

and your poor with justice!

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,

and the hills, in righteousness!

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,

give deliverance to the needy,

and crush the oppressor!

May he live while the sun endures,

and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**

In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

**May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the river to the ends of the earth!** R

May his foes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust!

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

**May all kings fall down before him,
and all nations serve him!**

For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

**He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

**From the oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.** R

Long may he live,

may gold of Sheba be given to him!

May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all the day!

**May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;**

and may they blossom forth in the cities
like the grass of the field!

**May his name endure for ever,
his fame continue as long as the sun!**

**May people bless themselves by him,
all nations call him blessed!** R

*** 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 2:1-12

pg. 2

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had

appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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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

"Arise Shine"

Rev. Rebecca L. Minor

*** Hymn of Response**

"Rise Up, Shepherd, And Follow"

TFWS #2096

1. There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
it will lead to the place where the Christ was born;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow,
follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd and follow.
2. If you take good heed to the angel's words;
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
you'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow,
follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd and follow.

*** Affirmation of Faith**

World Methodist Social Affirmation

UMH # 886

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us,
who died and rose again;
and in the Holy Spirit,
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

We believe;

God, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's Kingdom;
in the upholding of human dignity and community;
in every expression of love, justice and reconciliation;

in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;
in the abundance of God's gifts
entrusted to us that all may have enough;
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**Glory be to God on high;
and on earth, peace .**

We confess our sin, individual and collective,
by silence or action:
through the violation of human dignity
based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;
through the exploitation of people
because of greed and indifference
through the misuse of power
in personal, communal, national, and international life;
through the search for security
by those military and economic forces
that threaten human existence;
through the abuse of technology
which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

**Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy .**

We commit ourselves individually and as a community
to the way of Christ:
to take up the cross;
to seek abundant life for all humanity;
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,
praying that God's kingdom may come.

**Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.**

World Methodist Social Affirmation, *United Methodist Hymnal*, no. 886. Copyright © 1986 World Methodist Council, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. 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, 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”

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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.

*** Closing Hymn**

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

UMH #251

1. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
2. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.
3. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
Down in a lowly manger the nimble christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

*** Benediction**

*** Postlude**

“He Is Born The Divine Christ Child”

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Thank you for joining us in worship!

PRAYER LIST

Wright Andrews, Eddie Bliss, Faye Brooks, Royce Burruss, Woody Campbell, Roxanne Griffith, Maurice Hawa, Madeline Hawkins, Bill Hendricks, Lauma Hill, Cindy Huber, Betty Gregory, Shirley Johnson, the family of Brandon Kiser, Carolyn Lewis, Bill Loser, Ron Lucas, Jose Ramirez, Mary Lou Simpson, the family of Les Sisson, the family of George Wells 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, Israel, Palestine, and Sudan 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: SSGT Jonathan Simpson, SA Ethan Minor

PRAYERS AND CARDS ARE WELCOME FOR THESE MEMBERS

Lee Black, Barbara Brooks, Jim Climaldi, Jean Edwards, Cecile Farmer,
Don and Carol Nicholas, Edna Parrish and Jean Rhines.

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

SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Today:	10:00 AM	4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, January 7, 2024:	10:00 AM	Baptism of The Lord Sunday

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