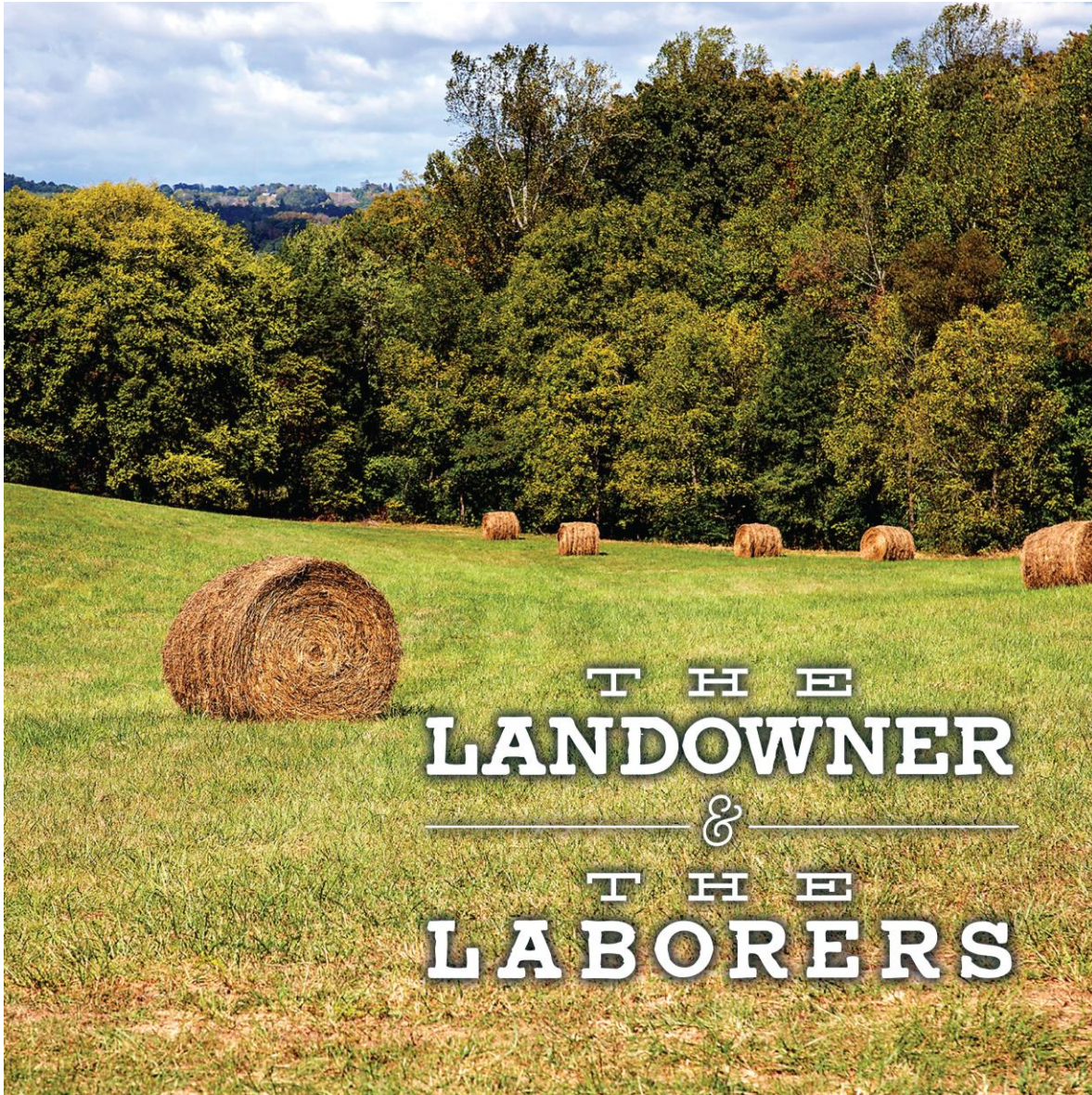


***Tappahannock Memorial
United Methodist Church***

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

17th Sunday after Pentecost

“We Complain – Life’s Not Fair”

September 24, 2023

Exodus 16:2-15; Palms 112 (833); Phillip 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-6

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Prelude

“All Things Bright And Beautiful”

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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

“Christ Beside Me”

TFWS# 2166

1. Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, King of my heart; Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me shield in the strife; Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising light of my life.
3. Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, King of my heart; Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.

* Call to Worship:

Give thanks to the Lord.

Call on God’s holy name.

Sing praises to our God.

Tell of God’s wonderful works.

God offers bread from heaven to satisfy our hunger.

God issues water from solid rock to quench our thirst.

Give thanks to the Lord.

Let everything that draws breath praise God.

Call to Worship from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, pp. 177. © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. .

Guide our way, Caretaker God, in the wilderness of our lives. Offer us the bread of heaven, that we may taste your Spirit and be nourished in body and soul. Reveal your presence among us and show us the tender mercies of your love. In joy and jubilation, we pray. Amen.

Opening Prayer from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, pg. 177. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Yearning

God of infinite patience, we turn complaining into an Olympic sport: “The journey is too long. The road is hard and our feet hurt. We’re hungry and bored. This isn’t what we signed up for” You’ve heard it all before, faithful One. You’ll hear it all again. Yet, you never forsake us in our grumbling. Shower us with your manifold blessings and open our lips to sing songs of gratitude. For we are weary of our complaining and long to make a fresh start. Amen.

Prayer of Yearning from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, pp. 178. 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

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

A SERVICE OF REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Pastor: Through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

Presenter: I present Rachel Hundley who comes to reaffirm her faith and seek professing membership of Tappahannock Memorial UMC from another United Methodist Church.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace,

and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

Candidate: I will.

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Rachel now before you in your care?

Congregation: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Rachel with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

All Candidates: Amen.

Pastor: Rachel, the Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Candidate: Amen.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

Pastor: As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

All Candidates: I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend Rachel to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

Congregation: 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.

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you that you may live in grace and peace.

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Children's Time

Scriptures

Exodus 16:2-15

pg. 62-63

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

Philippians 1:21-30

pg. 196-197

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Exodus 16: 2-15; Philemon 1:21-30 from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

TMUMC Glory Ringers

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*** Psalms 112**

UMH #833

¹Praise the Lord,

Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in God’s commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches are in their house,
and their righteousness endures for ever.

⁴**They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

⁵It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

⁶**For the righteous shall never be moved;
they will be remembered for ever.**

⁷They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, trusting in the Lord.

⁸**When they see their adversaries,
their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid.**

⁹They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor
their righteousness endure for ever;
their horn is exalted in honor.

¹⁰**The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

*** 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 20: 1-16

pg. 21-22

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:1-16 from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1990 by Graded Press in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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

“We Complain – Life’s Not Fair”

Rev. Rebecca L. Minor

Special Music

“You’re Gonna Be Okay”

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*** Hymn of Response**

“Make Me A Servant”

TFWS # 2176

1. Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord let me lift up those who are weak. And may my prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

“Make Me A Servant” Contributor(s). Kelly Willard. Words and Music: © 1982 CCM Music (Admin. By Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.). CCLI Song # 33131 CCLI License #2350408.

*** 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.**

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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 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.

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

The Offertory

“Jesus Loves Me”

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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**

“My Life is In You, Lord”

TFWS # 2032

1. My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord; in you; it's in you. My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you. I will praise you with all of my life, I will praise you with all of my strength, with all of my life , with all of my strength.

“My Life Is In You, Lord” Contributor(s).Daniel Gardner Words and Music: © 1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. By Integrity Music). CCLI Song # 17315 CCLI License #2350408.

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

“Oh How I Love Jesus”

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Thank you for joining us in worship!

PRAYER LIST

Bill Black, the family of Joe Blackenship, Eddie Bliss, Royce Burrus, Roxanne Griffith, Susie Hardwick, Maurice Hawa, Madeline Hawkins, Bill Hendricks, Cindy Huber, Betty Gregory, Randy Kelly, Carolyn Lewis, Bill Loser, Dakota Minor, Nate Parker, Russ Riles, Mary Lou Simpson, the family of Jack Snyder, 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: SSGT Jonathan Simpson. SA Ethan Minor while at Navy Advanced Schooling.

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

Today:	10:00 AM	17th Sunday After Pentecost Worship Service
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	Wednesday Morning Group
Sunday, October 1st:	10:00 AM	18th 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