

*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

1st Sunday of Advent

“We Wait In Expectation”

December 3, 2023

Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians :3-9; Mark 13:24-37

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Prelude

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

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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

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

UMH#196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

* Call to Worship:

The Lord of hosts redeems us when we stray.

With a mighty arm, God comes to save us.

When God hid his face, we strayed.

When God withdrew her presence, we stumbled.

**God has fed us with the bread of tears
and given us tears to drink in full measure.**

Yet, through his son, God calls us back from the pit
and restores our future.

**God shines upon us with love,
that we might be saved.**

Come! Let us worship.

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*** Opening Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God of glory, your power darkens the skies
and causes the moon to grow dim.

When we scatter to the four winds,
gather us from the ends of the earth
and restore us as your people.

Awaken us from slumber,
that we may be found ready
when the master of the house returns. Amen.

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Prayer of Yearning

The mountains quake at your presence, O God.

The nations tremble at your feet.

**Rather than rejoicing in our salvation,
we have wandered from your path and lost our way.**

**Tear open the heavens and come down, Mighty One,
as you did of old.**

**Awaken our world from slumber,
and help your people stand in awe at your glory.**

**May your refiner's fire purify us of our transgressions,
that we might be reshaped into vessels
worthy of your kingdom. 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.

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Ramirez Family

Isaiah 64:1-3 & Mark 13:35

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come”.

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Hymn

“*Light The Advent Candle*”, verse 1

TFWS #2090

- 1. Light the Advent Candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;
we have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

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

Children’s Time

Pastor Becca

Scriptures

Isaiah 64:1-9

pg. 694

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.⁷ There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Scriptures

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

pg. 166

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah 64:1-9 and 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 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 Reading

Psalm 80

UMH #801

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

R

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who 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 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

*** 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**

Mark 13:24-37

pg. 50

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they
will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the
angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you
know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near,
at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken
place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or
hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert;
for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home
and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening,
or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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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

“We Wait In Expectation”

Rev. Rebecca L. Minor

*** Hymn of Response**

“My Lord What A Morning”

UMH #719

1. My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning,
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You’ll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.
2. My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning,
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You’ll hear the sinner moan, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.
3. My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning,
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You’ll hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord:

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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 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

“Mary Did You Know”

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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**

“Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory”
(verses 1, 4 & 5)

UMH #717

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
his truth is marching on.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

4. In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
while God is marching on.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

5. He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,
he is wisdom to the mighty, he is honor to the brave;
so the world shall be his footstool, and the soul of wrong his slave.
Our God is marching on. Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

*** Benediction**

“Three Fold Amen”

UMH #898

Amen, Amen, Amen.

*** Postlude**

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

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Thank you for joining us in worship!

PRAYER LIST

Wright Andrews, Eddie Bliss, the family of Lois Bonhouse, the family of Dawn Burton, Woody Campbell, the family of Billy Cooke, Roxanne Griffith, Susie Hardwick, Maurice Hawa, Madeline Hawkins, Bill Hendricks, Lauma Hill, Cindy Huber, Betty Gregory, Carolyn Lewis, Bill Loser, Ron Lucas, Ray Massie, Nate Parker, Mary Lou Simpson, the family of Ed Wells, 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, 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, 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	1st Sunday of Advent
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	Wednesday Morning Group
Sunday, December 10 th :	10:00 AM	2 nd Sunday of Advent

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