

***Tappahannock Memorial
United Methodist Church***

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



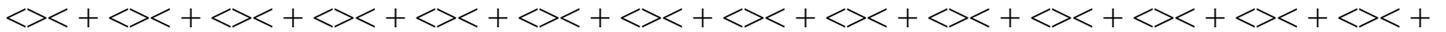
*“To all who mourn and need comfort,
to all who are tired and need rest,
to all who are lonely and need companionship,
to all who sin and need a Savior, and to all who will,
this church opens wide its doors.”*

Baptism of the Lord

“Covenant with Me”

Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7; Psalm 29; Mark 1:4-11

January 10, 2021



Prelude

“I Love to Tell the Story”

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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.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!!

Opening Hymn

“Shall We Gather at the River”

UMH # 723

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

1. Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God? **{R}**
2. On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. **{R}**
3. Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. **{R}**
4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. **{R}**

* Call to Worship:

God's strong voice calls us to worship,
calling us to sing and offer praise.

God's creative voice calls us to worship,
calling us to life and light.

God's loving voice calls us to worship,
calling us to love and be loved.

Listen, for God's voice calls to us now.

Call to Worship from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*, pg. 13. © 2020 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Word of God, speak, for your servants are listening. Spirit of creation and renewal, hover over our gathering this day, as you hovered over creation on that first day. Enter into our hearts and our lives, as you did at the day of our baptism, that we may hear again your words of love and adoption. Speak from the heavens into our minds, that we may perceive your words of guidance and wisdom.

Opening Prayer from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*, pg. 13. Copyright © 2020 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Confession

When our hearts are hard as stone, soften us with your grace. When our lives are riddled with sin and pain, heal us with your mercy. When our ears are ringing with self-doubt and cynicism, strengthen us with words of faith and love. When our minds are muddled with confusion and fear, enlighten us with the radiance of your wisdom. Speak to our spirits from the truth of your being, the reality of your love, and the promise of your forgiveness, that we may hear your voice clearly and follow where you call us to go.

Prayer of Confession from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*, pp. 13-14. © 2020 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!

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.

Registration of Attendance

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, as well tell us anyone who watched with you. Please email Cindy (tappmethodist@gmail.com) with your attendance information.

Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-5

pg. 1

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Acts 19:1-7

pg. 139

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in

Jesus.” ⁵*On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.* ⁶*When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—* ⁷*altogether there were about twelve of them.*

Genesis 1:1-5 and Acts 19:1-7 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 29

UMH # 761

¹Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, upon many waters.

**⁴The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶The Lord makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness,
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the Lord makes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forests bare;
and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as Ruler for ever.

**¹¹May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

*** 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 1:4-11

pp. 34-35

⁴*John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.* ⁵*And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.* ⁶*Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.* ⁷*He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.* ⁸*I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

⁹*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.* ¹⁰*And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.* ¹¹*And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Sermon

“Covenant with Me”

The Reverend Rebecca Minor

The sermon for today has changed a few times in my mind before typing this final draft. I spoke with Rev. Barb last week about what my theme for January was in regard to preaching and worship. In reading the scripture texts from the first Sunday to the last Sunday of January, what kept repeating in my mind was “commitment, dedication, and devotion.” I believe as we are at the beginning of a new year, this is the ideal time to ask ourselves what are we committed, dedicated, and devoted to? And then secondly, how do we live that out? We are in the year 2021 now, and as a church we have been given the opportunity to reinvest ourselves by serving in leadership in the church using the gifts and graces that God has given us. I am so grateful for all of those who serve TMUMC and the local church in such tremendous ways.

Today we also celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday. This always follows Epiphany and is at the beginning of a new year. I think that it is appropriate for us to observe Baptism of the Lord Sunday so soon after beginning a New Year, because more important than making our new year’s resolutions, we are invited to remember our baptism and the commitment, dedication, and responsibility that baptism demands of us. This morning we read the gospel text from Mark describing the baptism of repentance that John the Baptist offers to the crowds. And they come to John confessing their sins and are baptized by him. John says there is one even greater to come that will baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Jesus comes and he has John baptize him in the Jordan River. “And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’” The profound truth we find in this word is that Jesus is the Son of God.

If we were in our normal worship experience pre-COVID, our worship service today would include a reaffirmation of our baptismal covenant. We would respond to the same questions that we or our parents answered at the time of our baptism. If you have not been baptized, I would ask for you to ponder the meaning of baptism, the questions being asked, and if you might consider receiving God’s abundant grace through the sacrament of baptism. Today I have the pitcher and bowl, but we cannot come forward and dip our hands in the shared bowl. But that does not stop us from understanding the blessing of baptism and the commitment we make in our baptism.

The congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant found in the United Methodist Hymnal begins with these words. “Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ’s holy Church. We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God’s gift, offered to us without price. 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.” In our Baptism we are claimed as God’s beloved children that are united as the body of Christ, that is the church. In our baptism we are made new through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This was going to be the original message of my sermon for today, that through our baptism we are born anew and what does that newness of life look like for us. But as the week went on and in light of the gut-wrenching, heartbreaking, unfathomable events on Wednesday, I felt called for us to dive deeper into the questions that are asked of us at our baptism.

I want you to listen very carefully and intently as I read these questions aloud to you. Ponder them in your hearts and minds.

- Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?
- Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?
- 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?
- 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?

These questions are not just questions of faith and a belief system. These are questions of action. As those who are called according to God's purpose, and united as the body of Christ how are we going to live into the commitment of these vows in the world around us. I spoke last Sunday about light and darkness; good and evil and how it is our choice as to how we live. Our baptismal vows challenge us to understand and know that it is not enough to just choose the light and chose good, we must also reject and resist evil in all of its forms.

I stand before you today as your pastor. I do not preach any politics but the politics of Jesus. What happened Wednesday at our national Capitol Building was not a vision of the Kingdom of God. Not only were the actions that took place antithetical to the gospel of love; the finger pointing, blaming, and reactionary words were not Christ like either. Jesus Christ is our Lord and our Savior. No politician or national leader is our Lord and Savior. Yes, we give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but we give to God what is God's, and that is our commitment, dedication, devotion, and faithfulness. We do not allow the ways of this world, our government, or our political leaning take priority and turn us into people that are willing to blatantly disregard the humanity of another, insult and curse another, or turn to brute force, violence, or coercion.

The actions that took place on Wednesday are a peak of a long line of events that have been going on in our nation for quite some time. I believe the pandemic has only exacerbated these situations. It's a known fact that when we find ourselves isolated one from another it becomes easier to not see the humanity of the other. The fights and even deaths that have happened over mask wearing. The arguments of freedom oppression for being asked to wear a mask. The intentional defiance of COVID-19 requirements in churches and tearing down pastors that are trying to protect the sheep of the fold. (No, I'm not referring to me or this church, but to colleagues of mine.) The ways in which individuals have not hesitated to berate and curse another person as if they were nothing of importance. The fear to not speak up lest the angry words and violence be turned in our direction. The peaceful protests that get turned into riots, destruction, looting and even death.

As people of Christ, we first must confess our own sins for ways in which we have failed to live faithfully and played a role in the division of our nation and even our churches. Secondly, we have a responsibility to speak up and speak out against these evils. Thirdly, we are called to serve as Christ's representatives in the world. This is what we have promised when we made our Baptismal covenant. Do we take it seriously? I'm calling for us as individuals and as a church to recommit ourselves to those vows made. And to those of you who have not yet been baptized, I ask how you can faithfully follow Christ and live into these commitments even still. We are the body of Christ present in the world. We need to look and act like it.

In 1775 John Wesley started an annual tradition in the Methodist societies known as the Covenant Renewal Service. This service would take place on January First or the first Sunday after the 1st. The service was used as a ceremony of commitment to a life of discipleship. This service would help

individuals dedicate to a life of service and living like Christ. I want to close with a part of that covenant service that is known as Wesley's Covenantal Prayer. May we commit and dedicate ourselves to God faithfully and live as Christ's representatives in the world.

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

Hymn of Response

"When Jesus Came to Jordan"

UMH # 252

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon
but as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.</p> <p>3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.</p> | <p>2. He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.</p> |
|---|--|

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*** Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

UMH # 880

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Sharing of Our Joys & Concerns

We want to continue to pray for the healing of the nations through this pandemic. Remember those who have been in the hospital for treatments and surgeries as well as recovery from COVID 19. Remember those who are isolated with no one to interface with. Please continue to remember praying for your prayer partners, our home bound folks and those in the nursing, rehab, and assisted living facilities, for those on the front lines and doing the most necessary work. Please let us know of other prayer concerns and needs. We do have folks who are willing and able to pick up & deliver groceries and medicine.

Pastoral Prayer

Gracious and merciful God. We do not deserve your faithfulness and your love. We recognize that it is only by your grace that we can receive forgiveness for the evil we have done, redemption in spite of our deserved consequences, and salvation when it is unearned and undeserved, but that is just how gracious and merciful you are. Your love abounds in our lives. How can we keep from praising and worshipping you?

We lift up to you this day all who are suffering in mind, and body, and spirit. We pray for those suffering and dying from Covid-19 all across the world. We pray for those working hard to get vaccines out. We pray for those exhausted working on the front lines. We pray for those who seek hope this day. We pray for the bereaved and grieving. We pray for those in treatments and recovering. We pray for those whose hearts are filled with anger and hate. We pray for those who can't see past

their own desires. We pray that to all of these lifted up you will bring healing, peace, comfort, strength, courage, forgiveness, redemption, love, and life.

You are the God of peace and justice. We long for the day when that becomes our everyday reality in the fullness of your kingdom, when justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We pray today that through the presence of the Holy Spirit you will give us the strength and courage to be Christ's representatives in the world. Keep us honest with what it means to live like Christ in our present-day world. Help us to recommit ourselves to the life of discipleship that is a witness to your glorious kingdom. We thank you that you go with us and we are not alone. Lord, hear these prayers and in this moment of silence hear our individual prayers that lay on our hearts.....in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen!

The Offering

Please remember to keep your tithes and offerings up so that the ministry of our church can continue. You may drop it off in the collection plate as you leave the church this morning, you may mail it to P. O. Box 326, Tappahannock, VA 22560, or use the E-Giving link available on our website at www.tappahannockmethodist.org. **Thank you for your continued support!**

The Offertory

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

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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

“Spirit Song”

UMH # 347

Refrain:

Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill your lambs.

1. O let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh let him have those things that hold you,
and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you
whole. **{R}**

2. O come and sing the song of gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his
name.
O give him all your tears and sadness;
give him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. **{R}**

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Benediction

Go now with the peace of Christ, who unites us and sends us forth to love one another. Amen.

Postlude

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

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Thank you for joining us in worship!

Please email the office tappmethodist@gmail.com and let us know if you watched or read the full service, and if anyone joined you, so we may include you in our attendance count. We are also extremely interested in your feedback, including from those who attended in-person this morning.

PRAYER LIST

Jennifer Amirault (Beth McKinney's daughter), Eddie Bliss, Alice Boyd, the family of Ed Bray, John Erik Carlson and family, Betty Cooper, Mary Ellen Culver, Olivia Egge, Joan & Doug Floyd, Jack Henicheck, Daniel Hernandez, Sandy Hill, Karin Huber, Alaina Manley, Jacob McGuckin, the family of Lynwood & Pauline Morris, Mae Mullins, Monica Newsham, the family of Ron Schiller, Mary Lou Simpson, Tim State, Wendy Tate, Marge Taylor, Nancy Tiller, Jackson Titmus, Charlie Tombs. Inclusion & equality for the LGBTQ family & friends. All affected by critical weather conditions and violence, everyone who struggles with drug addiction and alcoholism, those in peril around the world, all missing persons, and those who serve in the Armed Forces. Everyone around the world as we fight to stop the spread of COVID-19.

MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS: SSGT Jonathan Simpson, Kage Alexander Smith.

PRAYERS AND CARDS ARE WELCOME FOR THESE MEMBERS

Lee Black, Jim Climaldi, Cecile Farmer, Ginny Flaherty, Edna Parrish, Eleanor Rehm, and Jean Rhines.
** Please contact the office if you would like the phone number or address for any of these members of our church family.*

SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Today:	10:00 am	Baptism of the Lord
Mon:	<i>Finance Committee - POSTPONED to 11 am on Sunday, Jan 24</i>	
Wed:	10:30 am	Wednesday Morning Group – Bible Study
Sun, Jan. 17:	10:00 am	1 st Sunday after the Epiphany Special Offering: Human Relations Day

Thank you for being in worship with us today.

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 Minor, Cell Phone: 757-870-8265

Minister of Congregational Life: The Reverend Barbara M. Jacobs

Co-Music Directors: Rob & Kelly Wright

Administrative Assistant: Cindy Huber, Cell Phone (949) 522-5204

Church: 804-443-2278 / **Church Administrative Email:** tappmethodist@gmail.com

Worship Registration Email: TMUMCWorship@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Thu: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Administrative Assistant's Hours (Off Site): Mon, Wed, Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Thank you to our pianist today, Beth Harvey!

Today's Leaders:

Altar Guild: TBD

Lector: Carol Smith

Teller: Susan Hendricks

Ushers: John Harvey and Alan Jacobs

Worship Registrar: Becky Hundley

Videographer: Rodney Minor