

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | August 2, 2026

- **IN-PERSON 9:30 am** in the Sanctuary
- **LIVESTREAM** online at **9:30 am on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC>
- on **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/@hillsdalefirstumc-45nmanni2>
- on **our church website** <https://hillsdalefirstumc.com/>

Please stand as you are able during parts of the service indicated with an asterisk. * | Congregation responses indicated in **bold print**.

Gathering

Prelude

Toccata-Improvisation on *All Creatures of Our God and King*

B. Portman

Greeting

*Call to Worship

The heavens declare God's glory, and the earth displays the work of his hands.

Without a word they proclaim his majesty.

Their beauty summons us to the praise of our God.

But to us, God has given the gift of music, so that we might make known his mighty and merciful deeds.

**We join our voices with the song of the bird, the murmur of the river,
and the rumble of the thunder, to sing the greatness and the goodness of our God.**

*Hymn of Praise

All Creatures of Our God and King

62, vs 1-3, 7

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

2. O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain,
by which all creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

3. O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother fire who lights the night,
providing warmth, enhancing sight,
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

7. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Words: Francis Assisi, trans. By William H. Draper, adapt. 1987
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Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906; Public Domain
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*Prayer of the Day

*Glorious God,
we enter your presence with joy,
celebrating the many blessings we have received from your hand.*
With words ancient and words new, we declare your gifts of grace.

As we lift our voices, may our hearts be lifted, as well.
May your Spirit dwell among us, inhabiting the praises of your people.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

*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.***

Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent. Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851. Public Domain

Proclamation

New Testament Reading – Revelation 5:1-10 *Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. ⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

*“You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals,
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;
¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God,
and they will reign on earth.”*

Sung Response

What Wondrous Love Is This

292, v3

***To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.***

Words: USA folk hymn, Public Domain. Music: USA folk hymn, harm. by Paul J. Christiansen, 1955. Harm. © 1955, renewed 1983 Augsburg Publishing House
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Psalm 98:1-6

*¹ O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.*

*² The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication
in the sight of the nations.*

*³ He has remembered
his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.*

*All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.*

*⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.*

*⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.*

*⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.*

Special Music

Earth and All Stars

H. Brokering, D. N. Johnson

Jim Bowen, soloist

Sermon Text – Ephesians 5:15-21 *¹⁵ Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Response to the Scripture *This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!*

Message

The Art of Heaven

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

68

1. When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried
Alleluia!

2. How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

3. So has the church in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue,
Alleluia!

4. And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia!

5. Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always
Alleluia!

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Psalm 150 (responsively)

862

¹ Praise the Lord!

*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise God in his mighty firmament!*

² Praise God for his mighty deeds;
praise God for his exceeding greatness!

³ Praise God with trumpet sound;
praise God with lute and harp!

⁴ Praise God with tambourine and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise God with sounding cymbals;
praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶ Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

Intercessory Prayer

(Sung response after each petition)



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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, for ever. Amen.**

Offertory and Church Family News and Notes

*We invite you to sign the attendance pads and pass them to others in your pew.
An offering plate is located at the back of the sanctuary for you to use for your giving.*

*Doxology 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.**

Words: Thomas Ken, Music: Attr. to Louis Borgeois, Public Domain

***Prayer of Dedication**

*Generous God,
you have given to us the gift of music, and you have inspired us with reasons to sing.
We have allowed you to use our voices, and shared with you our melodies.*

*And now, we present before you a portion of our wealth. Of all that we have to offer you, this is the least.
It is only a thing, acquired through our labor and the labor of others.*

Yet we pray that it might be blessed, and that our giving might be sanctified.

*As we lift our offering before you, we do so with love,
and with faith that these gifts will help to spread joy in our community and our world.*

**May there be hope where there was despair,
and may the stilled tongues break forth with songs of praise.
In the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.**

Sending

***Hymn**

Maker, in Whom We Live

88

1. Maker, in whom we live,
in whom we are and move,
the glory, power, and praise receive
for thy creating love.
Let all the angel throng
give thanks to God on high,
while earth repeats the joyful song
and echoes to the sky.

2. Incarnate Deity,
let all the ransomed race
render in thanks their lives to thee
for thy redeeming grace.
The grace to sinners showed
ye heavenly choirs proclaim,
and cry, "Salvation to our God,
salvation to the Lamb!"

3. Spirit of Holiness,
let all thy saints adore
thy sacred energy, and bless
thine heart-renewing power.
Not angel tongues can tell
thy love's ecstatic height,
the glorious joy unspeakable,
the beatific sight.

4. Eternal, Triune God,
let all the hosts above,
let all on earth below record
and dwell upon thy love.
When heaven and earth are fled
before thy glorious face,
sing all the saints thy love hath made
thine everlasting praise.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747. Public Domain

***Prayer of Dismissal**

*Loving Lord, let us leave this place with a song of praise in our hearts,
and an aspiration to share psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to everyone we meet.*

**May we hear the clear, but far off hymn, that hails the new creation,
and know your abiding peace.
In Jesus' name, amen.**

Postlude

Praise Him with Timbrel and Dance

D.E. Wagner

*After the pastor and liturgist have recessed and the altar candles are extinguished,
you may stay seated or quietly leave your seats during the postlude.*

Prayer Requests

Prayers for anyone in need of God's comfort and peace.

Colleen Fadden, Joyce Potter, Liam Trombly, Cheryl Paul, Al Jagger, friend of Robin Curtis (health),
Jeff Everett, Brad Nisbett, John Gabriele, Robin Curtis

(Please contact the office to add or remove a request from our list.)

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

45 N. Manning St., Hillsdale, MI 49242 | 517-437-3681 | www.hillsdalefirstumc.com facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC

Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director | Jim Bowen, soloist

Janell Wilson, Liturgist