

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | December 7, 2025

- **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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence / Of the Father's Love Begotten

S. Weber / W. Held

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Candle

Many people believe that the word "love" is one of the sweetest in the English language.

To some, love makes the world go around. Some say love is a many-splendored thing.

It's the answer to our greatest questions, and the key to every door.

Love is the only thing that can make life worth living. Songwriters and poets never tire of telling its charms.

**And yet, in spite of the oceans of ink that have been poured out on account of love,
our world seems more mystified by it than ever.**

We dream; we cling; we weep over loves lost and love never found.

But love doesn't have to be such a mystery.

The Bible has told us that the essence of love is not in what we receive, but in what we give.

God himself, the greatest Lover, has given us the ultimate example:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son."

**God's very being was poured out into the person of Christ,
who became the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

*This morning, we light the candle of love—because the light of God's love still shines for us,
reminding us that the true expression of love is not found in what we receive, but in what we give.*

Lighting the Advent Candle

Love

*Hymn of Praise

Of the Father's Love Begotten

184, with additional verse

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him:
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; trans. by John Mason Neale and Henry Williams Baker
Music: Divinum mysterium, Sanctus trope, 11th century; adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582. Public Domain

*Prayer of the Day

*God of glory,
you sent your Son into a dark and hopeless world
as the ultimate demonstration of your good will toward humanity.*

**Teach us to recognize daily the abundant evidence of your love and mercy,
so that we might be reassured that we are always in your thoughts, and our lives are in your hands.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. 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

Psalm 103:1, 6-13

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

⁶ The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love
toward those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

Prayer Response

10,000 Reasons

J. Myrin, M. Redman

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.

Your name is great and your heart is kind.

**For all your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.**

CCLI Song # 6016351 Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshipstogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI License # 3134300 and streamed under CCLI #20153811

New Testament Reading – 1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Anthem

What Shall We Sing for the Child?

H. Helvey

Sermon Text – Matthew 1:18-21

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

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

Message

Love That Takes a Leap

Pastor Tomasino

*Hymn of Response

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent; trans. by Gerard Moultrie, 1864
Music: French carol melody; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906. Public Domain

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Juice and gluten-free bread are served.)

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 17 (sung by ALL)
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Elise Elsinger. Adapt © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used and Streamed under One License, License #A-723218

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Great Thanksgiving

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Song (sung by ALL)

The Lord's Prayer

A.H. Malotte

***Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

Words from Scripture; Music: Albert Malotte © 1935 (Renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (ASCAP) International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Streamed under CCLI 20153811

Sharing the Bread and Cup *Longing for Messiah / O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

M. Hayes

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pastoral Prayer

Sung Prayer Response

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Lord, save us from the dark of our striving, faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.

Come, O Redeemer, come, grant us mercy. Come, O Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

CCLI Song # 2069663. Fernando Ortega © 1996 Metro One All rights reserved. CCLI License # 3134300

Response

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.*

*Song of Dedication

In the Bleak Midwinter

221, v4

***What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.***

Words by Christina Rossetti, 1872. Public Domain

*Prayer of Dedication

Compassionate Lord,

in your love for us, you were willing to give your only Son to bring us life everlasting.

*We have been inspired, too, by the example of Saint Joseph,
who laid aside honor and comfort because of his love for Mary, and his love for God.*

May we, too, be willing to give sacrificially, recognizing the great need in the world.

**May we give without fear,
believing that you can supply all of our needs from your abundant riches.**

*May our offering be blessed, so that it might embody our love for our neighbors,
and our commitment to the redemption of all creation.*

In the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.

Sending

People, Look East

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*Hymn

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928. Music: Trad. French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1928
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*Benediction

Postlude

The King Shall Come

S. Weber

*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.

Continuing: Colleen Fadden; Robin Curtis and family; Colleen Fadden's nephew; Sharon Dix's daughter, Kim; Anthony, in the loss of his father; Pastor Tony's parents; Jackie Budd, Shirley Cummings' family, Cheryl Dohl's family, Pat Bowditch

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, December 7	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Handbell rehearsal	11:00 am	Sunday, December 7	In person – Music Room
• Trustees (if needed)	5:30 pm	Monday, December 8	In person – Hickok Room
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, December 14	In person – Sanctuary and Online

MISSIONS | The Missions Team invites your continued support of Heifer International this month.

Heifer is on a mission to end global hunger and poverty by supporting and investing in farmers and their communities. Since it began in 1944, Heifer has assisted nearly 60 million households in 19 countries on 4 continents.

Thank you for your contributions this month to Heifer International.

CHRISTMAS STARS: GIFTS FOR CHILDREN | **All of our Christmas Stars have been selected!** A huge thank you from our ONE Team to everyone who reached out to bless a child this Christmas!

ADVENT GIVING | We are still collecting items for our *Wrapped in God's Love* Christmas ministry. Lists of needed items are available, and collected items can be brought in through December 14. Thank you for helping us to wrap others in God's love during this Advent and Christmas season.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director | HFUMC Chancel Choir

Janell Wilson, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor