

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | March 15, 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

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle
My Faith Looks Up to Thee

D. Cherwien
D. Wood

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

What our eyes have seen, what our ears have heard,
bear witness to the power and goodness of our Lord.
May we be not content to merely admire His glory;
let us aspire to become disciples, and true doers of the Word.

*Hymn

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

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1. Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle, sing the ending of the fray;
now above the cross, the trophy, sound the loud triumphant lay:
tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer, as a victim won the day.
2. Tell how, when at length the fullness of th'appointed time was come,
Christ, the Word, was born of woman, left for us his heavenly home;
showed us human life made perfect, shone as light amid the gloom.
3. Thus, with thirty years accomplished, went he forth from Nazareth,
destined, dedicated, willing, wrought his work, and met his death.
Like a lamb he humbly yielded on the cross his dying breath.
4. Faithful cross, thou sign of triumph, now for us the noblest tree,
none in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be;
symbol of the world's redemption, for the weight that hung on thee!
5. Unto God be praise and glory: to the Father and the Son,
to th'eternal Spirit honor now and evermore be done;
praise and glory in the highest, while unending ages run.

Words: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 6th cent.; trans. by Percy Dearmer, 1931. Music: French carol melody; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906, alt. Public Domain.

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord,

at the cross of Jesus, we see the truth of who you are—holy, innocent, and full of mercy.

Yet we confess that seeing your glory has not always led us to follow your way.

Like some of those who witnessed the crucifixion, we are moved by your suffering and stirred by your sacrifice.

But our admiration is shallow when it does not lead to obedience.

We call you "Lord, Lord," yet too often we resist your commands and choose our own path.

Forgive us when our lips speak devotion, but our lives do not bear its fruit.

You ask for trust that becomes action, faith that becomes faithfulness, belief that becomes discipleship.

Have mercy on us when we settle for sentiment instead of surrender.

By your Spirit, turn our confession into commitment and our reverence into obedience.

Have mercy on us, and heal us, O Lord!

*Kyrie Eleison

Pastor:

All:

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Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words: Ancient Greek. Music: James A. Kriewald © 1985 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed under One License #A-723218

***Words of Assurance** . . . *In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.* **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Proclamation

Psalm 71:1-6, 19-21

¹ In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
² In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.
³ Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
⁴ Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
⁵ For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
⁶ From my birth I have leaned upon you,
my protector since my mother's womb.

My praise is continually of you.
Your power ¹⁹ and your righteousness, O God,
reach the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?
²⁰ You who have made me see
many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again.
²¹ You will increase my honor
and comfort me once again.

Sung Response

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

288, v3

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New Testament Reading – James 2:14-19

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder.

Anthem

Behold the Savior of Mankind

S. Wesley, F. Williams

Sermon Text – Mark 15:33-39 ³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God's Son!”

John 19:31-35 ³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth, so that you also may continue to believe.)

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

Message

Longinus, the Centurion

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!

2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

3. While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then in love,
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

Words: Ray Palmer, 1875. Music: Lowell Mason, 1831. Public Domain

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

Sung Prayer Response

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.***

Words and Music: Helen H. Lemmel. Public Domain

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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

***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

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*Prayer of Dedication

*Lord Jesus,
you gave everything for us, holding nothing back.*

**Teach us to offer our lives with the same wholehearted devotion.
As we present these gifts, free us from empty words and half-hearted faith.
Let our giving reflect our desire to follow you in truth and obedience.**

Receive these offerings, and make us disciples who live what we confess.

**With gratitude and faithfulness, we dedicate ourselves to you.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Sending

Lamb of God

2113

*Hymn

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side,
to walk upon this guilty sod,
and to become the Lamb of God.

2. Your gift of love, they crucified,
they laughed and scorned him as he died,
the humble king they named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

3. I was so lost, I should have died,
but you have brought me to your side,
to be led by your staff and rod,
and to be called a lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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*Benediction

Postlude

O Lamb of God, Innocent

J.S. Bach

*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, Gail Clow, Joyce Potter, David Knowles, Liam Trombly, Cheryl Paul,
friend of Robin Curtis (health), and Anna Hatfield (Robin Curtis's niece)

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Worship | 9:30 am | Sunday, March 15 | In person – Sanctuary and Online |
| • Worship with breakfast | 11:00 am | Sunday, March 15 | In person – Fellowship Hall |
| • Worship Committee Meeting | 1:00 pm | Tuesday, March 17 | In person – Lounge |
| • Lenten Study with supper | 6:00 pm | Wednesday, March 18 | at First Presbyterian Church |
| • Choir rehearsal | 6:30 pm | Thursday, March 19 | In person – Music Room |
| • Worship | 9:30 am | Sunday, March 22 | In person – Sanctuary and Online |

MISSIONS | This month, the Mission Team continues its support of the CWS Blankets+ Program.

The Church World Service Blankets+ Program stands ready to offer essential supplies for the road to recovery after floods, storms, and emergencies. A contribution of \$75 provides a Clean-Up Bucket packed with cleaning supplies that help families begin to recover when disaster strikes. It's a first step toward rebuilding – filled with hope, packed with love, and ready when it matters most. Thank you for your contributions this month in support of the Church World Services Blankets+ Program.

UMCOR SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFERING, MARCH 15 | UMCOR Sunday (once known as One Great Hour of Sharing) is one of six churchwide Special Sunday offerings of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR Sunday calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt.

Your gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God's love with communities everywhere, keeping UMCOR's promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES | This week's session **will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, March 18.** A light supper will be served at 6:00 pm followed by a video lesson and discussion.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director

HFUMC Chancel Choir

Cordelia Tomasino, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor