

# Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | March 1, 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** *Christ, the Life of All the Living / Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* N. Vetter  
(Two Lutheran chorales that praise God for salvation through Jesus' suffering and death.)

### Pastoral Greeting

#### \*Call to Worship

*I will enter his gates with joyful singing.*

**I will shout with joy to the Lord of Hosts.**

*For his hand lifts up his fallen children;*

**every foe that rises against us is laid low.**

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

**God breaks every chain, and sets the captives free.**

#### \*Hymn of Praise

*Make Me a Captive, Lord*

421

1. Make me a captive, Lord, and then I shall be free.

Force me to render up my sword,

and I shall conqueror be.

I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand;

Imprison me within thine arms,

and strong shall be my hand.

2. My heart is weak and poor until it master find;

it has no spring of action sure,

it varies with the wind.

It cannot freely move till thou hast wrought its chain;

enslave it with thy matchless love,

and deathless it shall reign.

3. My power is faint and low till I have learned to serve;

it lacks the needed fire to glow,

it lacks the breeze to nerve.

It cannot drive the world until itself be driven;

its flag can only be unfurled

when thou shalt breathe from heaven.

4. My will is not my own till thou hast made it thine;

if it would reach a monarch's throne,

it must its crown resign.

It only stands unbent amid the clashing strife,

when on thy bosom it has leant,

and found in thee its life.

Words: George Matheson, 1890. Music: George J. Elvey, 1868. Public Domain

**\*Prayer of Confession** *God our King, as we continue through this season of Lent,  
we are sternly reminded of our human frailty. Our Lord Jesus fasted for forty days,  
but we struggle with skipping desserts.*

**We speak of growing in our commitment, so that we might be better fit for the Kingdom of God.  
And yet, how hard we find it to make even small sacrifices, to bring Heaven closer to earth!**

*The time we spend with you in prayer and meditation is small.*

*We are held in bondage by trivial pursuits and earthly diversions that consume our time and attention.*

**We call ourselves disciples—but our discipline is weak.  
Have mercy on us, and heal us, O Lord!**

#### \*Kyrie Eleison

Pastor:

All:

482

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, 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

**New Testament Reading – Romans 6:15-19** <sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

### Sung Response

*O For a Heart to Praise My God*

417, v1

***O for a heart to praise my God, a heart from sin set free,  
a heart that always feels thy blood so freely shed for me.***

Words: Charles Wesley, 1742. Music: Thomas Haweis, 1792. Public Domain

### Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 53:1-12

*Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
3 He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.  
4 Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases,  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
5 But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.  
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.*

<sup>8</sup> *By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.  
9 They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.  
10 Yet it was the will of the LORD  
to crush him with affliction.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.  
11 Out of his anguish he shall see;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant,  
shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.  
12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
because he poured out himself to death  
and was numbered with the transgressors,  
yet he bore the sin of many  
and made intercession for the transgressors.*

### Choir Anthem

*My Lord, My Love, Is Crucified*

A.L. Page

### Sermon Text – Luke 8:1-3

*Soon afterward he went on through one town and village after another, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, <sup>3</sup> and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who ministered to them out of their own resources.*

### Response to the Scripture

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

### Message

*Faces around the Cross: Mary Magdalene*

Pastor Tomasino

## \*Song of Response

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

Words: John E. Bode, ca. 1866 (Lk. 9:57). Music: Arthur H. Mann, 1881Public Domain

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

*(Juice and gluten free bread are served.)*

*Please form a line down the center aisle and come forward to receive the elements.)*

### \*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.***

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### \*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.**

*...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is 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

*My Song Is Love Unknown*

M. Burkhardt

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

#### 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.***

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Words and Music: Helen H. Lemmel. Public Domain.

## 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.*

**\*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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*Merciful God, you sent our Lord Jesus into the world,  
and he offered himself up as a sacrifice for our sins.*

**His life was given, so that we might have life abundant and everlasting.**

*We offer our gifts so that our neighbors, near and far,  
might know the depths of God's love, and experience new life through Jesus Christ.*

**Bless them for your use, O Lord.**

*May we experience the joy of knowing that we have made a difference in the world.*

**And may that joy impel us to greater giving and sacrifice.**

**In the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.**

**Sending**

**\*Hymn**

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

1. And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Savior's blood!  
Died he for me? who caused his pain!  
For me? who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!

2. 'Tis mystery all: th'immortal dies!  
who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
let angel minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
let angel minds inquire no more.

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

3. He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!),  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.

5. No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;  
alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739 (Acts 16:26). Music by Thomas Campbell, 1835. Public Domain

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain*

M. Burkhardt

*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.*

**Hillsdale First United Methodist Church**

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director

HFUMC Chancel Choir

Tana Trombly, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor