

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | March 22, 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

Two Settings of *Just As I Am*

D. Wood / G. Young

Pastoral Greeting

***Call to Worship**

O Lord, you know the secret thoughts of our hearts.

We can hide from each other, and even from ourselves, but we cannot hide from you.

Show us who we are, O God. Shine your light on our shuttered souls, and open our eyes to the reality within.

**In the mirror of your Word, our dignity and our shame are revealed,
and the depths of your mercy are made manifest.**

***Hymn**

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

365

1. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin!

2. Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
threaten the soul with infinite loss;
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin!

3. Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.
What can avail to wash it away?

Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,
brighter than snow you may be today.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin!

4. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see his face,
will you this moment his grace receive?

Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin!

Words: Julia H. Johnston, 1911 (Rom. 5:20). Music: Daniel B. Towner, 1910. Public Domain

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,

*you have made the way for us to be released from the penalty of sin,
and from the power of sin, as well.*

**You have given us your Holy Spirit to purify our hearts
and strengthen us to resist the temptations that come our way.**

But often, we have failed to heed the direction of your Spirit.

We have justified ourselves in our minds, when we know in our hearts that we have failed you.

**We have given in to temptations we could have resisted,
and we have indulged in sins we could have fled.**

And so, we have brought guilt on ourselves, and we have grieved the Spirit who lives within us.

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

Psalm 130

848

(Sung by all): **In my distress I cry to the Lord: "Deliver me, O Lord."**

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

² Lord, hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **But there is forgiveness with you,
that you may be worshiped.**

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
in the Lord's word I hope;

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!

for with the Lord there is steadfast love,
with the Lord is plenteous redemption.

⁸ **And the Lord will redeem Israel
from all iniquities.**

(Sung by all): **In my distress I cry to the Lord: "Deliver me, O Lord."**

Words: Psalm 120. Music: Jane Marshall © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used and Streamed under One License #A-723218.

New Testament Reading – 1 John 1:5-10

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Anthem

And Can It Be?

D. Forrest

Sermon Text – Mark 15:25-32, Luke 23:39-43

Mark 15:25-32 ²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Luke 23:39-43 ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

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

Message

Faces Around the Cross: Mattathias, the Bandit

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

Just As I Am

357, vs 1,3,5,6

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just as I am, thy love unknown
hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliot, 1835. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1849. 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.***

349

Words and Music: Helen H. Lemmel, Public Domain

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.***

95

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

*Prayer of Dedication

***Lord God, through your Son Jesus Christ,
you reached out to a dying man whose zeal had been twisted by fear and pride.
You extended grace to him, and offered him mercy he had never imagined.
He saw in Christ's suffering a love that was not self-serving, a courage not born of anger.
Teach us to recognize our own hidden motives
and to accept the power you give us to walk in new life.
As the bandit entrusted his broken life to you, so we bring these gifts with humble hearts.
Purify our intentions, that our giving may reflect your self-sacrifice.***

Receive what we offer, and reshape us into people who seek your kingdom rather than our own gain.

**With humility and renewed purpose, we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you.
In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Sending

*Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

301

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1869. Music: William H. Doane, 1869. Public Domain

*Benediction

Postlude

Near the Cross

D. Hustad

*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, Liam Trombly, Cheryl Paul, Jim Tesch, Lenore Snyder, Al Jagger,
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

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|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Worship | 9:30 am | Sunday, March 22 | In person – Sanctuary and Online |
| • Handbell rehearsal | 11:00 am | Sunday, March 22 | In person – Music Room |
| • Lenten Study with supper | 6:00 pm | Wednesday, March 25 | HFUMC – Fellowship Hall |
| • Choir rehearsal | 6:30 pm | Thursday, March 26 | In person – Music Room |
| • Worship (Palm Sunday) | 9:30 am | Sunday, March 29 | In person – Sanctuary and Online |
| • Handbell rehearsal | 11:00 am | Sunday, March 29 | In person – Music Room |

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

Church World Service was founded on a shared vision of a world where everyone has food, a voice, and a safe place to call home. Your gifts this month have been sent to places you might never visit and have helped people you will never meet, but whom you have reached at their time of greatest need. Thank you for your contributions this month in support of the Church World Services Blankets+ Program.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES | The last session of our Lenten Study Series **will be held here in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 25**. 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

Sue Walter, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor