

# Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | March 8, 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

*Via Crucis*

C. Ferrari

(1. Jesus is condemned to death, 2. Jesus carries his cross, 5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross.)

### Pastoral Greeting

#### \*Call to Worship

*From our Lord Jesus goes forth a summons:*

*"If anyone would be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."*

**It is a call to service; a call to obedience; a call to sacrifice.**

*If we truly understood his summons, would we be quick to obey?*

*Or would we seek a more comfortable religion—the way of the couch, instead of the cross?*

**May God give us the courage to rise up and follow Jesus,  
on the path that leads to life abundant and everlasting.**

#### \*Hymn

*Take Up Thy Cross*

415

1. "Take up thy cross," the Savior said,  
"if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me."

2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,  
to save thy soul from death and hell.

4. Take up thy cross and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Words: Charles W. Everest, 1833 (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24)  
Music: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815. Public Domain

#### \*Prayer of Confession

*God our Savior, we acknowledge*

*that it is easy to be a Christian in modern America.*

*We rarely suffer persecution or rejection like our ancestors did.*

**We have good jobs; we live in nice neighborhoods; we are welcome at the best parties.  
We rarely suffer any inconvenience for our faith.**

*And yet, we seldom make waves, either. We blend in to our society so seamlessly  
that distinctions between Christians and non-Christians  
appear inconsequential.*

**Christians hold many of the highest offices in our government,  
but their presence makes little difference in our politics.**

**Many celebrities claim to be people of faith,  
but their religion is rarely reflected in their behavior.**

*Young people often say the church is out-of-touch and irrelevant.  
Our message is seldom persecuted, but it is often ignored.*

**Have we laid aside the cross and rejected its scandal?  
Has the gospel that brought the Roman Empire to its knees become powerless?  
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 – Matthew 10:34-38

<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,  
<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup> “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

### Anthem

You Are My All in All

D. Jernigan

### Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 50:4-9

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me  
a trained tongue,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens,  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand in court together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.

### Sung Response

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

288, v2

Words: African American spiritual. Public Domain. Music: African American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986. Adapt and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House  
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### Sermon Text – Luke 23:14-16, 23-26

<sup>14</sup> ...“You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

<sup>23</sup> But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

<sup>26</sup> As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

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

### Message

Simon of Cyrene

Pastor Tomasino

## Response

### \*Hymn of Response

*Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone*  
(Sung to the tune of #269 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*)

424

1. Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
and all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for everyone,  
and there's a cross for me.

2. How happy are the saints above,  
who once went sorrowing here!  
But now they taste unmingled love,  
and joy without a tear.

3. The consecrated cross I'll bear  
till death shall set me free;  
and then go home my crown to wear,  
for there's a crown for me.

Words: Thomas Shepherd and others, 1855  
Music: USA Folk Melody; arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938 © 1938, renewed 1966 J. Fischer and Bro. Co.;  
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### 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.***

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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

*O Lord our God,  
you have called us to sacrifice comfort and rest for the sake of your Kingdom.  
We have been challenged to give up our small ambitions for the much greater cause of the gospel.  
May our offering be blessed, as it is a small step  
toward that obedience that true discipleship demands.  
May we become a blessing as we embrace the lifestyle of service to which we have been called.  
In the name of Jesus our Lord, amen.*

## Sending

### \*Hymn

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

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1. When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of Glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.  
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707. Music: Lowell Mason, 1824. Public domain

### \*Benediction

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, 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**

- Worship 9:30 am Sunday, March 8 In person – Sanctuary and Online
- Handbell rehearsal 11:00 am Sunday, March 8 In person – Music room
- Trustees (if needed) 5:30 pm Monday, March 9 In person – Lounge / ZOOM
- Praise Band 5:15 pm Tuesday, March 10 In person – Fellowship Hall
- Finance 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 10 ZOOM
- **Lenten Study with supper 6:00 pm Wednesday, March 11 HFUMC Fellowship Hall**
- Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm Thursday, March 12 In person – Music Room
- 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

**Lenten Study Series**  
 A Joint Study with Hillsdale First UMC and First Presbyterian Church  
*Heroes of the Faith*  
**Wednesdays at 6:00 pm**

**March 11 - Hillsdale First UMC**  
**March 18 - First Presbyterian**  
**March 25 - Hillsdale First UMC**

**Light supper served at 6:00 pm followed by a video lesson and discussion.**

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | First Presbyterian Church  
 45 N Manning St, Hillsdale 49242 | 517-437-3681 | 31 North St, Hillsdale 49242 | 517-437-2580

**MISSIONS** | This month, the Mission Team continues its support of the CWS Blankets+ Program. Even after the storms, CWS is still on the ground actively responding to those affected by winter storms in February, flooding in California in January, and even last year’s hurricane in Haiti. Thank you for your contributions this month that support these efforts.

**UMCOR SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFERING, MARCH 15** | Next week we also have the opportunity of supporting our own **United Methodist Committee on Relief**. Our contributions to UMCOR strengthen the United Methodist response to humanitarian crises around the world through disaster relief, refugee support, environmental sustainability, and food security. Thank you for considering a Special Sunday offering next week to UMCOR.

**HANDBELL REHEARSALS** | Handbell rehearsals are resuming this Sunday at 11:00 am in the Music Room. Additional rehearsals will be in the Music Room at 11:00 am on March 22 and March 29, and in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am on April 12.

**LENTEN STUDY SERIES** | This week’s session **will be held here on Wednesday, March 11**. A light supper will be served at 6:00 pm followed by a video lesson and discussion.

**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

HFUMC Chancel Choir

Jan Tesch, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor