

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | November 30, 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

Variations on *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

M. Burkhardt

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

*Today, we gather to observe the season of Advent—
a time of anticipating the coming of the Lord.*

*But as we look forward with anticipation to the joy to come,
we are aware that there are many people in the world who exist in a state of “quiet desperation”—
a sense that nothing is ever going to change, and that their lives are meaningless.*

*They feel pushed around by forces beyond their control, trapped in circumstances they didn't create.
They don't believe that they can make any difference in the world, and many have given up trying.*

**But the message of the Gospel is that none of us are insignificant in the eyes of Heaven.
We believe that God loved the world so much, that he sent his Son
to live among us and lead us into his Light.**

*We proclaim the Good News that none of us is forgotten.
And one day, Jesus Christ will gather us all to himself, and we shall see that our work has not been in vain.
Someday, we'll see how the prayers we've uttered today have moved mountains and shaped eternity.*

This is the hope that gives our life meaning. It is the light that guides us on our way.

*This morning, we light the candle of hope.
May hope always burn brightly in our hearts, giving us confidence that because of Jesus Christ,
our lives really do matter.*

Lighting the Advent Candle

Hope

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

211, vs 1, 2, 6, 7

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7. O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Henry Sloane Coffin | Laurence Hull Stookey | Thomas Helmore © Words: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
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Music: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm by Thomas Helmore, 1854; Public Domain

***Prayer of the Day**

*Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.
Give us grace to heed their warnings and turn away from sin, so that we may truly celebrate the
commemoration of the Nativity.*

**Help us, also, to look beyond the cradle of Bethlehem,
and await with joy the glorious advent of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
who shall bring your Kingdom in its fulness, and reconcile all things to their Creator.
In the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever, Amen.**

***Act of Praise**

*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. Amen.*

184, v3

Words by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; trans. by John Mason Neale and Henry Baker. Tune: Divinum Mysterium. Public Domain

Proclamation

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 40:1-5

*Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.*

*³ A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

Sung Response

***Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.***

207, sung twice

Words: Isaiah 40:3, 52:10 Music: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé, 1984 © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, by permission of GIA Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-723218

New Testament Reading – Philippians 2:1-8

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

*⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,*

*⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.*

And being found in appearance as a human,

*⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.*

Sermon Text – John 1:19-28

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³ He said,

*“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”
as the prophet Isaiah said.*

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, “Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal.” ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Message

Knowing Who You Aren't

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

5. All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Words: and Music: 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.**

Prayer Response

Come, O Redeemer Come

***Father, enthroned on high, holy, holy;
ancient eternal Light, hear our prayer.
Come, O Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, O Redeemer, come, grant us peace.***

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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.*

*Song of Dedication

***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

221, v4

*Prayer of Dedication

*Lord, we have been inspired by joyful hymns
and we have been challenged by the Word of Truth.
Our hearts have been lifted up with the hope of your coming Kingdom,
and the dream of a better world to come.*

**May our giving, too, reflect our hope that our work here
can make a difference in our community and our world.
Let our offering be used to bring comfort to the needy, to establish justice for the oppressed,
and to send forth the light of Good News to those who despair.
In the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.**

Sending

*Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

203

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2. He comes with succor
speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

4. To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.

Words: James Montgomery, 1821. Music: Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle, 1784, alt. Adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868. Public Domain

*Benediction

Postlude

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

D. Cherwien

*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
Sue Walter, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, November 30	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Handbell rehearsal	11:00 am	Sunday, November 30	In person – Music Room
• Cantata rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, December 4	In person – Music Room
• Cantata tech rehearsal	6:30 pm	Friday, December 5	In person – Sanctuary
• Cantata and Reception	2:00 pm	Saturday, December 6	In person – Sanctuary / FH
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, December 7	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Handbell rehearsal	11:00 am	Sunday, December 7	In person – Music Room

MISSIONS | The Missions Team's focus for November is support for Heifer International.

Heifer uses a multi-faceted approach to fulfill its mission of ending hunger and poverty.

- They gift animals to families, and also train families on proper animal care.
- They provide seeds for crops, and also teach families proper farming techniques.
- They support farmers and empower women to ensure that farm families are equipped to sustainably meet all of their needs.

Thank you for your contributions this month to Heifer International.

ADVENT GIVING | Our ONE Team is once again collecting items for our *Wrapped in God's Love* Christmas ministry.

If you are interested in helping us collect needed items, a list will be available at the back of the sanctuary. A bin will be available until December 14 for your collected items.

All items received by December 14 will be distributed to our friends and neighbors at our December 21 breakfast service. Thank you for helping us to wrap others in God's love during this Advent and Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS STARS: GIFTS FOR CHILDREN | Our ONE Team is also organizing its annual outreach to provide **clothing needs and other Christmas gifts for children** related to those we serve during our Third Sunday worship service.

If you would like to respond to the needs of a child this Christmas, there are still a few stars left! We invite you to sign up to take one - or more - of the Christmas Star tags from the display at the back of the church. You will return the numbered Christmas Star tag and your unwrapped gifts for that child in a Christmas gift bag. Please also remove price tags as needed. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Jan Tesch or the office.

Your Christmas Star gifts are appreciated by Wednesday, December 10.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2:00 PM | Our Christmas Cantata is next weekend!

There is still time to invite someone to join you for an afternoon of music and a light reception to follow. Posters and postcards that can serve as reminders and invitations are available in the back of the sanctuary. Admission is free and all are welcome!

Prayer Requests | Prayers for anyone in need of God's comfort and peace.

Continuing: Colleen Fadden; Robin Curtis and family; Craig Connor's brother, Gary; 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.

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



Sing We Now of Christmas

*A Celebration of Christmas
in Scripture and Song*

Saturday, December 6

2:00 pm

Free Admission

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people:
to you is born this day in the city of David,
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Christmas Eve, December 24

Candlelight Worship 7:00 pm

