

- **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

Allegro Vivace from *Reformation Symphony*

F. Mendelssohn,
trans. by W .C. Carl

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

The Lord is calling forth a people.

*He is not summoning the weak-willed or the faint hearted,
but heroic souls who will take their place in his army,
who will hold forth truth and goodness like a banner,
and proclaim boldly, "Here I stand!"*

May the Lord make us willing to answer his call.

**Let us take a stand against evil, injustice, and oppression,
in the power of his Holy Spirit.**

*Hymn of Praise

A Mighty Fortress

110

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,
thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

Words and Music by: Martin Luther, ca. 1529. Trans. by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; harm. from The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930. Public Domain

*Prayer of the Day

*Mighty God, throughout all the ages,
you have had champions who were ready to make your kingdom their highest goal,
and to give themselves to the call of service.*

**Help us to be people of vision and courage,
who can stand for what is good and right,
speaking the truth in love, in such a time as this.
For it is in the name of Christ our Lord that we pray, Amen.**

*Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent. Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851. Public Domain

Proclamation

Gospel Reading – Luke 6:20-26

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Sung Response

Faith of Our Fathers

710, v1

***Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy whene’er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.***

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1849. Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1864; adapt. James G. Walton, 1874. Public Domain.

Old Testament Reading – Daniel 7: 1-12 *In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³ and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. ⁴ The first was like a lion and had eagles’ wings. Then, as I watched, its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a human being, and a human mind was given to it. ⁵ Another beast appeared, a second one, that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one side, had three tusks in its mouth among its teeth, and was told, “Arise, devour many bodies!” ⁶ After this, as I watched, another appeared, like a leopard. The beast had four wings of a bird on its back and four heads, and dominion was given to it. ⁷ After this I saw in the visions by night a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth and was devouring, breaking in pieces, and stamping what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that preceded it, and it had ten horns. ⁸ I was considering the horns when another horn appeared, a little one that came up among them. Three of the original horns were plucked up from before it. There were eyes like human eyes in this horn and a mouth speaking arrogantly.*

⁹ *As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne;*

his clothing was white as snow and the hair of his head like pure wool;

his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ *A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence.*

A thousand thousands served him,

and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

¹¹ *I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.*

Anthem

O Breath of Life

B. P. Head / D. A. White

Sermon Text – Revelation 3:1-6 *“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:*

“I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God.

³ Remember, then, what you received and heard; obey it and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. ⁴ Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not erase your name from the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

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

Message

Church of the Living Dead?

Pastor Tomasino

Response

***Hymn of Response**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

589

(Sung to the tune of #430 *O Master Let Me Walk with Thee*)

1. The church of Christ, in every age
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.

3. Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4. For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Words: Fred Pratt Green 1969 © 1971 Hope Publishing Co. Used and Streamed under One License #A-723218.
Music: H. Percy Smith, 1874. 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, forever. Amen.**

Sung Prayer Response

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

361, v3

***Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.***

Words: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776. Music: Thomas Hastings, 1830. 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 94**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. By Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978. Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; Public Domain. All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #3134300

***Prayer of Dedication**

*O Lord,
so many people have made so many sacrifices to bring your church to where it is today.*

**Some have given their wealth. Some have sacrificed their time.
Some have even given their lives, so that we can experience your grace.**

*Our sacrifices might be small in comparison,
but they represent our commitment to your Kingdom and its principles.*

**May our gifts be blessed,
so that your church may be continually renewed and reformed into the image of Christ.
In his name we pray, amen.**

Sending

*Hymn

1. O Spirit of the living God,
thou light and fire divine,
descend upon thy church once more,
and make it truly thine.
Fill it with love and joy and power,
with righteousness and peace;
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts,
and sin and sorrow cease.

2. Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow
until our minds are free
from mists of error, clouds of doubt,
which blind our eyes to thee.
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips
with flaming love and zeal,
to preach to all thy great good news,
God's glorious commonweal.

O Spirit of the Living God

3. Teach us to utter living words
of truth which all may hear,
the language all may understand
when love speaks loud and clear;
till every age and race and clime
shall blend their creeds in one,
and earth shall form one family
by whom thy will is done.

4. So shall we know the power of Christ
who came this world to save;
so shall we rise with him to life
which soars beyond the grave;
and earth shall win true holiness,
which makes thy children whole;
till, perfected by thee, we reach
creation's glorious goal!

Words: Henry H. Tweedy, 1935. Music: Traditional English melody, arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Public domain

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*Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare on A Mighty Fortress

J. Pethel

*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, Joyce Potter, Liam Trombly, Cheryl Paul, Al Jagger, Robin Curtis, Kathy Connor,
Jeff Everett, Brad Nisbett, Mike Dix, Betty Fast, Dee Curcio, Ron Boyle
(Please contact the office to add or remove a request from our list.)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, October 25	In person – Sanctuary / Online
• Handbell Rehearsal	11:00 am	Sunday, October 25	In person – Sanctuary
• Ad Board	7:00 pm	Monday, October 26	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Bible Study	10:30 am	Wednesday, October 28	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, October 29	In person – Music Room
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, November 1	In person – Sanctuary / Online
• Handbell Rehearsal	11:00 am	Sunday, November 1	In person – Sanctuary

MISSIONS | The Missions Team is grateful for your support this month for the Water for Life initiative in Liberia. Water for Life is supported by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and seeks to expand water access and sanitary facilities throughout the country to reduce waterborne diseases.

BIBLE STUDY | Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Lounge and via ZOOM. A recording of the session will also be available on request. Contact the office for the ZOOM links.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA | Rehearsals for the annual Christmas cantata are being held on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. The performance will be Saturday, December 5 at 2:00 pm.

DINNER IN A BAG | Collections and contributions toward this ministry will be welcomed until early November. Your assembled meal bags will be distributed during our Thanksgiving Breakfast service on November 15.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY | You are invited to bring your own candles for recognition of your loved one during our All Saints Day worship service next week, November 1. There will also be extra candles provided.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director | HFUMC Chancel Choir

Tana Trombly, Liturgist