

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | September 28, 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

Two Settings of the tune *Maryton*

G. Young / J. Pethel

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

Our world is a place of great beauty.

But it is also a place of great ugliness.

Human beings are the crown of God's creation.

But we are also capable of unspeakable evil.

There is love, and peace, and hope all around.

But there is violence, and darkness, and despair on every hand.

In the best—and the worst—of all possible worlds,

let us look steadfastly to the Lord, who calls us from the darkness into His glorious light.

*Hymn

Maker, in Whom We Live

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1. Maker, in whom we live,
in whom we are and move,
the glory, power, and praise receive
for thy creating love.
Let all the angel throng
give thanks to God on high,
while earth repeats the joyful song
and echoes to the sky.

2. Incarnate Deity,
let all the ransomed race
render in thanks their lives to thee
for thy redeeming grace.
The grace to sinners showed
ye heavenly choirs proclaim,
and cry, "Salvation to our God,
salvation to the Lamb!"

3. Spirit of Holiness,
let all thy saints adore
thy sacred energy, and bless
thine heart-renewing power.
Not angel tongues can tell
thy love's ecstatic height,
the glorious joy unspeakable,
the beatific sight.

4. Eternal, Triune God,
let all the hosts above,
let all on earth below record
and dwell upon thy love.
When heaven and earth are fled
before thy glorious face,
sing all the saints thy love hath made
thine everlasting praise.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747. Public Domain

*Prayer of the Day

*Gracious God, when we see
the evil and ugliness that surrounds us in our world,
we are sometimes tempted to forget that you have promised to never leave us or forsake us.
We know that your heart is broken by the conditions in this world even more than ours are.*

**Help us to trust you to bring us through these trying times,
and to lead us in the future as you have led us in the past.**

Give us courage to commit our ways to you.

In the name of Jesus the Christ 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.***

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

Proclamation

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 136: 1-9, 23-26

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

³ O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁴ who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁵ who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁶ who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁷ who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁸ the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁹ the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²³ It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁴ and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁵ who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²⁶ O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Sung Response

***The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning.
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord! Great is thy faithfulness.***

E. McNeill

CCLI Song # 21590 Edith McNeill © 1974, 1975 Celebration. All rights reserved. Used under CCLI License # 3134300

The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; His mer - cies nev - er

come to an end. They are new ev' - ry morn - ing, new ev' - ry morn - ing.

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O Lord! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness.

New Testament – James 4:1-7

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it, so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it, so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴ Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose that the scripture speaks to no purpose? Does the spirit that God caused to dwell in us desire envy? ⁶ But God gives all the more grace; therefore it says,

***“God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.”***

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Anthem

Prayer of St. Francis

H. Litz

Sermon Text – Genesis 4:1-11

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have produced a man with the help of the Lord.”² Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground.³ In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,⁴ and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.⁶ The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”¹⁰ And the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen, your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground!¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

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

Message

Green-Eyed Murder

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

When Cain Killed Abel

2135

(Sung to Maryton, tune of #430 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee)

1. When Cain killed Abel in a fight,
and Jacob stole another's right,
when Joseph's brothers gave him chase,
God wept and mourned their fall from grace.

2. In every family, small or great,
when jealousy twists love to hate,
and rivals turn to enemies,
God weeps at our hostilities.

3. And when in church and world today
such feelings still come into play,
when brothers, sisters, stand apart,
God weeps for every broken heart.

4. Good Christians, join in God's lament,
weep now and mourn, be penitent,
and pray to God: Forgive us all.
Restore us as before the fall.

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Music: (Maryton LM) H. Percy Smith, 1874. Reharmonization by Julia Morgan © 1995 Abingdon Press.
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Prayers of the People

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

Hear My Prayer, O God

**Hear my prayer, O God, and listen to my plea; faithful, righteous One, give ear and answer me.
Judge me not, I pray; no merit dare I claim;
knowing my own faults, I trust in your just Name.**

**Hounded by a foe who crushed me to the ground, I am like the dead or those in prison bound.
Hopeless, numbed by fear, I ponder all your care;
thirsty as parched earth, I lift my hands in prayer.**

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (based on Psalm 143). © 2005 Music: Hal H. Hopson © 2006 Hope Publishing Co. All Rights Reserved. Used and Streamed under One License #A-723218.

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.*

***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
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***Prayer of Dedication**

*Lord God, since the beginning,
humans have expressed our appreciation for your blessings by presenting gifts to you.
And also since the beginning, we have sometimes presented offerings
that were thoughtless and unworthy of your glory.*

**Help us to give from the best of our time, our talents, and our resources.
May we be encouraged to become faithful stewards in your house,
and may our gifts be blessed to make a difference in our church, our community, and our world.
In the name of Jesus our Lord, amen.**

Sending

***Hymn**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

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1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

3. Thou hast promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to thee.

4. Early let us seek thy favor,
early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with thy love our bosoms fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Words: Attr. to Dorothy Thrupp, 1836 (Jn. 10:1-29). Music: William B. Bradbury, 1859. Public Domain

***Benediction**

Postlude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

G. Martin

*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

Janell Wilson, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor