

- **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/channel/UCRIHbHBJ74jhHeLkO4gAs6A?>
- on **our church website** <http://hillsdalefirstumc.com/>
- and by **phone 517-247-2477**

Gathering

Prelude

Prepare the Way, O Zion

D. Wood

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come, joy, lighten our spirits.

Come, hope, lift us from despair.

Come, peace, ease our frantic worry.

Come, love, shine in all we do.

Come, Jesus, be born in us.

Come, Lord, set us free.

Come, God,

rule in our hearts and teach us to sing with joy!

Hymn

All the Earth Is Waiting

210

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,"
for his name is "God with us," our brother shall be,
with him hope will blossom
once more within our hearts.

3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,
yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

Words: Catalan text by Alberto Taule, 1972; English translation by Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987
Music: Alberto Taule, 1972; harm. by Skinner-Chavez-Melo, 1988
© 1972 Alberto Taule; trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed under One License A-723218

Lighting the Advent Candle - LOVE

*For the child leaping in Mary's womb,
we light this candle of love.*

*For the labor required by you and by me to bring peace,
we light this candle of love.*

*For generation upon generation that need this blessing again,
we light this candle of love.*

*For the will to imagine another world is possible,
we light this candle of love.*

*For the fullness of the Holy Spirit,
we light this candle of love.*

*For the work of birth we share on Christmas,
we light this candle of love.*

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination *Loving God, as the prophet Mary tells us, you sent Jesus into the world to turn things upside down and right side up. As we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus help us to remember the message of Jesus: to work for justice and fairness, to bring balance to our living, to share your love with all people, and to make your reign become real here on earth. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope. Alleluia, forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace. Alleluia, forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy. Alleluia, forevermore.

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love. Alleluia, forevermore.

Words: Trad. Cameroon. arr. © 1990 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License A 723218

A Poem

Hush

Lucinda Humphries

*Sssh.
Can you hear it?
An expectant silence,
a hushed anticipation,
as if the very galaxy
is holding its breath.
There are truths
even the stars know,
like darkness,
like loneliness,
and how the night
can be a living thing.*

*And how once, long ago,
the night waited in wonder
along with the darkness
and the loneliness,
for the sound of a baby's cry,
for the miraculous
to come down
to the earth mundane.*
"Hush" by Lucinda Humphries.
From *Alive Now*, November/December 2004.
© 2004 by The Upper Room.
Used with permission through
Wood Lake Publishing. upperroom.org

Scripture Reading – Luke 1:39-45

Hymn

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

(Sung by Vocalists)

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

(Remaining Verses Sung by All)

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

Words by Rory Cooney, based on the Magnificat
Music: Irish traditional; arr. R. Cooney © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. Used under One License #A-723218

Scripture Reading – Luke 1:46-55

Response to the Scripture

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed in a loud cry, "Blessed are you who believes!"

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

The God of Justice calls us together and looks with favor upon us.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

The Mighty One is doing great things among us.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

There is good news for the hungry in this place.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

The poor will be lifted up.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

The promise of God is alive in us.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

Anthem

He Will Come

P. Liebergen

Message

Two Unexpected Prophets

(Come Back for Christmas, Part 4)

Response

Hymn

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

(Sung by Vocalists)

1. God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform.

He plants his footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm.

(Remaining Verses Sung by All)

2. Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill,
he treasures up his bright designs
and works his sovereign will.

3. You fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds you so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head.

4. His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

5. Blind unbelief is sure to err
and scan his work in vain.
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.

Words: William Cowper, 1774. Music: Scottish Psalter, 1615; harm. Thomas Ravenscroft (1592-1635), alt. Public Domain

Prayers of the People

The 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.

Song of Response

Immanuel

Card

A sign shall be given: a virgin will conceive
a human baby bearing undiminished Deity.
The glory of the nations, a light for all to see,
and hope for all who will embrace his warm reality.

Immanuel, our God is with us.

And if God is with us, who could stand against us?

Our God is with us: Immanuel.

For all those who live in the shadow of death,
a glorious light has dawned.

For all those who stumble in the darkness,
behold, your light has come.

Immanuel, our God is with us.

And if God is with us, who could stand against us?

Our God is with us: Immanuel.

So what shall be your answer? O will you hear the call
of him who did not spare his Son,
but gave him for us all.

On earth there is no power, there is no depth or height
could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Immanuel, our God is with us.

If God is with us, who could stand against us?

Our God is with us: Immanuel.

CCLI Song # 71014 | Michael Card © 1986 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Mole End Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI
License # 3134300 and streamed under CCLI #20153811

Invitation to the Offering

Moment of Meditation

King of Kings

B. L. Bailey

Doxology

(from Angels from The Realms of Glory)

***All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King! Amen.***

Words: James Montgomery, 1816, alt. Music: Henry Smart, 1867. Public Domain

Prayer of Dedication

Sending

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

234, vs 1-3

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Glory to God, Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Words and Music by John F. Wade
Words trans. by Frederick Oakley, 1841 and others
harmony from Collections of Motets or Antiphons, 1792
Public Domain

Passing the Peace

*During Advent we will be using our passing of the peace
to extend the peace of the season to one another as a parting blessing.
This is not a wish for an easy peace, nor an insignificant peace, nor a half-hearted peace . . .
but the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is with us now.
Please join me in these words praying them for all around you:*

**Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you.**

Benediction

Benediction Response

(Sung by all)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, the people of God! Amen.

Postlude

O Come, Alle Ye Faithful

Ch. Callahan

Call to Worship Dr. Derek C. Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, Discipleship Ministries of the UMC. / *Lighting the Advent Candle, Prayer for Illumination, Response to the Scripture, Prayers of the People* © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2021 Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFusion Advent • Christmas • Epiphany 2021–2022 / *Prayer of Dedication* © 2021 Discipleship Ministries, An Agency of the United Methodist Church. / *Passing the Peace*. The Iona Community, Scotland.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

45 N. Manning St., Hillsdale, MI 49242 | 517-437-3681
www.hillsdalefirstumc.com | facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC

Rev. Rob McPherson, Pastor | John Ourensma, Director of Music | Renee Nestorak, Associate Dir of Music |
Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Tana Trombly, Children's Ministries Dir | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor