

- **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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Ch. Ore

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

God of stables and stars,

you are the hope that leads us forward.

You are the love that cradles our hearts.

You are the peace that quiets our fears.

You are the joy that sounds through our voices.

You are the face that shines through the Bethlehem baby. Amen.

(The Christ candle is lit.)

Carols of the Season

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,

pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1734; alt. by George Whitefield, 1753, and others
Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856
Public Domain

That Boychild of Mary

241

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

1. What shall we call him, child of the manger?
What name is given in Bethlehem?

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

2. His name is Jesus, God ever with us,
God given for us in Bethlehem.

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

3. How can he save us, how can he help us,
born here among us in Bethlehem?

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

4. Gift of the Father, to human mother,
makes him our brother of Bethlehem.
That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

5. One with the Father, he is our Savior,
heaven-sent helper of Bethlehem.
That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

6. Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,
give ourselves to him of Bethlehem.
That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

Words by Tom Colvin, © 1969 Hope Publishing Company
All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI License # 3134300/Streamed under CCLI 20153811

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination *Light of life, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy, and gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us, so that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace. Amen.*

Hymn

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

What Child Is This?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Words by William C. Dix, 1865
Music: 16th Cent. English Melody
Public Domain

219

Introduction to the Reading

Scripture Reading – Psalm 148

Carol

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Joy to the World

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719
Music: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848
Public Domain

246

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.**

Scripture Reading – Colossians 3:12-17

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

Passing the Peace

*Let us begin to live out these words from Colossians.
Let us put on love and allow the peace of Christ to call us into one body.
May the peace of Christ be with you. Please share that same blessing with those around you!*
The peace of Christ be with you.

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

229

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.

Words: Polish carol; trans. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1925. Music: Polish carol; arr. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1926. Public Domain

Message

Sing with Sea Monsters

Response

Call to Reconciliation *Before we put away the ornaments and put the tree out by the curb,
before we toss the cards and wrapping paper into the recycling bin,
before we store the movies and music back in the closet,
let us confess how quickly we forget the true meaning of this holy season,
as we offer our prayers to our God, saying,*

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

**How patient you are with us, Loving Creator,
and how hard we find it to put up with the foolishness of others.
In humility, you became one of us, and we keep wanting everything to be about us.
You model a life of meekness in service to others,
and we are convinced life is all about power and success. All creation sings of your kindness,
while we hurl angry words at those we say we care about the most.**

**Yet, rather than becoming frustrated with us, Joy of Christmas, you continue to forgive us.
Clothe us with your love, we pray, so we might be more compassionate towards others.
Touch us with your grace, so we might become more gentle people.
Fill us with that peace which longs to reside in our hearts, even as we seek to continue our journey
with the Child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

(Silence is kept.)

Assurance of Pardon

*In these moments, let God's peace dwell in your hearts.
For God gives us hope, gives us peace, and gives us new life in the forgiveness of God's grace.*

**We will be thankful, for in receiving God's forgiveness,
we are enabled to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Song of Response

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

224, v2

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Words: 14 cent. Latin; trans. John Mason Neale, 1855. Music: German melody; harm. by Gary Alan Smith 1988
Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All Rights Reserved. Streamed under CCLI 20153811

Invitation to the Offering

Moment of Meditation

O Holy Night

A. Adam

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

*Generous God,
in this time of tinsel and trimmings
we pause and remember
that yours was the first Christmas gift of all.
With grateful hearts
we offer these gifts to you.
Wrap them in the radiance of your grace,
that they might spread love and healing in our world. Amen.*

Sending

Carol

Go Tell it on the Mountain

251

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
2. The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Words: John W. Work, Jr. 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20); Words are Public Domain
Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986
Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
All rights reserved. Streamed under CCLI #20153811

Benediction

As we go forth: May we, like the heavens, praise God in the heights.

*May we, like the shepherds, journey in the name of love. May we, like the stable owners, make room for hope.
May we, like the angels, sing out our joy. May we, like Mary, cradle peace in our hearts. Amen.*

Benediction Response

(Sung by all)

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

Postlude

Go Tell it on the Mountain

E. L. Diemer

Call to Worship, Introduction to the Reading, Prayers of the People, Prayer of Dedication, Benediction © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2021 Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFusion
Advent • Christmas • Epiphany 2021–2022 / Prayer for Illumination. Revised Common Lectionary Prayers copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg
Fortress. Used by permission. / Call to Reconciliation, Unison Prayer for Forgiveness, Assurance of Pardon ©2018 Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies

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