

- Streamed at **9:30 am on facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC>
- Available for **phone-in recording** at **11:00 am** @ 1-312-626-6799, provide meeting #394 134 739
- Available for viewing **on our church website** <http://hillsdalefirstumc.com/> or **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRIHbHBJ74jhHeLkO4gAs6A?>

Gathering

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

Our God has gathered us here, among the treasures of the Kingdom, to rejoice in faith. Our hearts are open to the life-giving possibilities faith can bring. Let none of us be afraid. The harvest of faith belongs to God the Giver. Thanks be to God. Our confidence is in the One who made heaven and earth!

Passing the Peace

Song

Rising

From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down
let the name of the Lord be praised.

From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down
let the name of the Lord be praised.

We've gathered to worship,
becoming a choir to sing your praise;
lifting our voices,
joining our hearts in this house today.
People of God, in the power of God,
for the Kingdom of God,
we sing.

From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down
let the name of the Lord be praised.
From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down
let the name of the Lord be praised.
From the sky to the depths, from the east to the west,
we give you praise.

We're gathered to go out to cities and towns;
we'll take your name into the nations,
shining your light in the darkest place.
People of God, in the power of God,
for the Kingdom of God,
we live.

From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down
let the name of the Lord be praised.

From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down
let the name of the Lord be praised.

From the sky to the depths, from the east to the west,
we give you praise, we give you praise.

(Instrumental interlude)

From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down
let the name of the Lord be praised.

From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down
let the name of the Lord be praised.

From the sky to the depths, from the east to the west,
we give you praise. We give you praise;

Lord, we give you praise; We give you praise.

CCLI Song # 4662460 Matt Redman | Paul Baloche
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Psalm 128

Reflection

What does it mean to say that your spouse is like a vine full of fruit?

What does it mean to say that your children are like olive trees, freshly planted?

Song

Seek Ye First

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

3. We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God,
Allelu, alleluia!

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Prayers of the People

O Eternal One, whatever our attitude is as we bow today, whether upbeat or depressed, we are comforted by those stirring words of St. Paul that "If God is for us, who is against us?" We thank you for this breakthrough in our human understanding of you which put behind us the concept of a punitive God. We thank you for all of the gentle reminders of how much you love us.

Whenever we become anxious in our souls we pray that you would remind us that you are still in charge of the universe. Provide us with an inner serenity which outward circumstances cannot shake. Remind us to use the treasures of earth to meet our needs but may we never confuse them with the treasures of the eternal.

WALK WITH US IN THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE.

Grant to those who are sad, comfort.

Grant to those who feel weak, strength.

Grant to the strong and confident, understanding and compassion.

Grant to the successful, humility.

Grant to those experiencing doubt, faith.

Grant to those facing a critical decision, wisdom and guidance.

Grant to the confused, clarity of purpose.

Grant to those whose hold on life is tenuous, the comfort of Jesus who does not condemn but who justifies and receives with such gentle grace.

Whatever our circumstance, give to all of us the confidence that we are "more than conquerors," so that when the great call comes we know with assurance that "nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Amen

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.**

Hymn

1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where'er you go.
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world
through valleys and pastures of peace.
You are the friends that I chose for myself,
the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom built on a rock
where justice and truth always reign.

You Are the Seed

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

3. You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God.
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

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Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, we praise you for the opportunity to gather in worship. Open our hearts as we bring ourselves before you in humble desire to follow your ways and know your wisdom. Open our eyes and help us see how our lives impact others and this created world. Open our ears and help us to hear the voices of those who have been silenced for too long. Open our minds and help us to understand our impact on the world and our more rightful place in it. Show us your glory, and guide our thoughts and reflections as we worship, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Anthem

The Kingdom of God

Message

Short and Sweet

Response

The kingdom of heaven comes to us:

*In the growing of a seed,
In caring for the birds,
In the hiding of yeast,
In the spreading of a message,
In the chance finding of a treasure,
In the careful search for pearls,
In the exchange of everything we have
for that which really matters,
In the catch of good fish,
In the rejection of that which is evil,
In the old,
In the new.*

The kingdom of heaven comes to us:

*When we grow,
When we share,
When we discover,
When we uncover,
When we discern,
When we open treasures of wisdom.*

The kingdom of heaven comes to us, today.

Song

Bring Forth the Kingdom

2190

1. Leader: You are salt for the earth, O people:
All: Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Leader: Share the flavor of life, O people:
All: Life in the Kingdom of God!
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the City of God!

2. Leader: You are a light on the hill, O people:
All: Light for the City of God!
Leader: Shine so holy and bright, O people:
All: Shine for the Kingdom of God!
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the City of God!

3. Leader: You are a seed of the Word, O people:
All: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Leader: Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
All: Grow in the Kingdom of God!
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the City of God!

4. Leader: We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
All: Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Leader: Love our journey and love our homeland:
All: Love is the Kingdom of God!
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the City of God!

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Invitation to Offering

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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Prayer of Dedication

We dedicate this offering to all who have been used, silenced, unseen, and forgotten. Bless it, we pray, with the yeast to make spirits rise. Transform it into the bread of life for the hungry of this world. Make it shine like the jewels of glory discovered by those who need your strength the most. Amen.

Sending

Hymn

Forward through the Ages

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1. Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
manifold the service, one the sure reward.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

2. Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light;
for it we must labor, till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,
poets sung its glory, heroes for it died.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

3. Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Words by Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908
Music by Arthur S. Sullivan
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Blessing

Postlude

Forward through the Ages

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