

- **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**
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Gathering

Prelude

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

E. L. Diemer

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

What mysteries there are in God's world!

We, so sophisticated, stand in awe at the wonders of the natural world.

We look at the tiniest of seeds and wonder what will happen.

From that small seed will grow a large shrub.

Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

God will use our gifts in miraculous ways.

Praise the God of small seeds and mighty power. Amen.

Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1867) (1 Tm. 1:17)
Music: Welsh Melody from John Roberts's Canaidau y Cyssegr, 1839
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Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of God, settle in among us; look past our external features and peer inside our hearts. See us for who we really are: yours. Stubborn, doubting, self-centered and yet, ever yours. Grant us insight to see as you see and the confidence to allow your unpredictable choices to lead us closer to you. Amen.

Scripture Reading – Psalm 20

*I pray that the Lord answers you
whenever you are in trouble.
Let the name of Jacob's God protect you.
Let God send help to you from the sanctuary
and support you from Zion.
Let God recall your many grain offerings;
let him savor your entirely burned offerings. Selah
Let God grant what is in your heart
and fulfill all your plans.
**Then we will rejoice that you've been helped.
We will fly our flags in the name of our God.
Let the Lord fulfill all your requests!***

Responsively

*Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed one;
God answers his anointed one
from his heavenly sanctuary,
answering with mighty acts of salvation
achieved by his strong hand.
**Some people trust in chariots,
others in horses;
but we praise the Lord's name.
They will collapse and fall,
but we will stand up straight and strong.
Lord, save the king!
Let him answer us when we cry out!***

Passing the Peace

Know the peace of Christ, our heavenly king, will answer you.

The peace of Christ be with you.

Prayers of the People

(Sung response after petitions)

**O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. When we call, answer us.
O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. Come and listen to us.**

*God of all new things, God of
Spring, and fragrant flowers, and
unexpected snow. God of hope
and new life,
Bless us, we pray,
this day.*

*Creator God from whom
all life springs forth
We give You thanks
Come, one and all,
Celebrate and rejoice!*

*Celebrate and rejoice -
The old has passed away
Everything has become new!
(Sung Response)*

*God of all things passing away, God
of old and yesterday,
the One
who is with us
in our despair and fear.
God who sighs and weeps, with us,
God who wipes away our tears.*

*Loving God, we offer up these prayers of concern this
day -
for those struggling to rebuild lives
from natural disasters, especially those
recovering from the recent tornados -
and for those recovering from human disasters
from failed economies -
also for those struggling with illness...*

*Hear us when we pray. Incline
your ear to our words,
silent
shouting
cries,
mournful
whispers
stunned
wordless.*

*Be gentle with our suffering
with our sorrows and losses,
and especially when our hard
hearts close us off to you.*

*Be gentle.
Be gentle.
O God, be God!
(Sung Response)*

*Anoint us with your touch
so that the softness of your love
can break into our hardness
and open us anew.*

*Anoint us, Holy One and fill
us with your loving touch.
Fill us that we can touch
in your love and fill
others. Fill us gently.
Fill us.*

*Living God, father, son,
mother, daughter
Family, friend, one, all
With, through, and by
Your love becomes
Reconciled.*

(Sung Response)

*Celebrate and rejoice -
The old has passed away
In you, in your resurrection,
In your life and love,
Everything becomes new!
All this we pray, in the name of the one who makes
all things new, and who taught us to pray:*

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 – Mark 4:26-34**Response to the Scripture** *This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!***Message***Starting Out As a Mustard Seed***Response****Song of Response**

1. By faith we see the hand of God
in the light of creation's grand design,
in the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.

2. By faith our fathers roamed the earth
with the pow'r of his promise in their hearts
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

3. By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death,
and rise triumphant from the grave.

By Faith

4. By faith the church was called to go
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost,
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in ev'ry corner of the earth.

We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

5. By faith the mountain shall be moved
and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon his name.

We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

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Invitation to Offering**Moment of Meditation***Hymn of Promise*

N. Sleeth

Doxology*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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***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.***

Prayer of Dedication

For the gift of those in leadership – whether anticipated or unforeseen – may we offer our support, and in so doing, respect and honor you, Holy One, and your role in their choosing. For the gift of talents you provide to each of us – those that come easily, or those that need cultivating – may we be thankful. Help us commit to exercising them to do your work. While our offering today may seem small compared to your generosity, may it be the seed you use to grow our community into a place where everyone finds rest and welcome. Amen

Sending**Hymn***You Are the Seed*

583

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."

(continued on next page)

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.
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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Benediction

Postlude

You Are the Seed

Gabarian/Chavez-Melo

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IN-PERSON WORSHIP, Sundays, 9:30 am

Masks and distancing are required. Singing is allowed with masks.

Livestreamed services on Facebook, YouTube, our church website, and by phone.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Tana Trombly, Children's Ministries Dir | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor