

- **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

O God Our Help in Ages Past

P. Manz

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come, let us give thanks to God.

**We gather together to praise the One
who strengthens the weak and hears the prayers of the forgotten.**

Come, let us give thanks to Christ.

**We gather together to sing of the One
who calls us to serve those who are empty, who hunger, who are alone at this time of year.**

Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit.

**We gather together to exalt the One
who prompts us to love, not only our family and friends, but the guests among us.**

Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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All:

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

Men:

2. Under the shadow of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Women:

3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

All:

4. A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

Quartet:

5. Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten,
as a dream dies at the opening day.

All:

6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 90)
Music: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by H.W. Monk, 1861
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Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

O God, you are the source of our life and the hope of our hearts. We are filled with wonder and we worship you. Every living cell of this universe is filled with your Spirit and every moment of our lives is full of your life-giving presence. You amaze us. Our desire for you is unending. In this time of worship accept our praise, and open us to experience the challenge of your word. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

(First response played once, then sung by all)
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

Then Hannah prayed:
My heart rejoices in the Lord.
My strength rises up in the Lord!
My mouth mocks my enemies
because I rejoice in your deliverance.
No one is holy like the Lord—
no, no one except you!
There is no rock like our God!

(Response sung by all)
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation!

Don't go on and on, talking so proudly,
spouting arrogance from your mouth,
because the Lord is the God who knows,
and he weighs every act.
The bows of mighty warriors are shattered,
but those who were stumbling
now dress themselves in power!
Those who were filled full
now sell themselves for bread,
but the ones who were starving
are now fat from food!
The woman who was barren
has birthed seven children,
but the mother with many sons
has lost them all!

(Response sung by all)
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

The Lord!
He brings death, gives life,
takes down to the grave, and raises up!
The Lord!
He makes poor, gives wealth,
brings low, but also lifts up high!
God raises the poor from the dust,
lifts up the needy from the garbage pile.
God sits them with officials,
gives them the seat of honor!

(Response sung by all)
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

The pillars of the earth belong to the Lord;
he set the world on top of them!
God guards the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked die in darkness
because no one
succeeds by strength alone.

(Response sung by all)
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!

The Lord!
His enemies are terrified!
God thunders against them from heaven!
The Lord!
He judges the far corners of the earth!
May God give strength to his king
and raise high the strength
of his anointed one.

(Response sung by all)
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Sung Response from the hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Words: Joachim Neander, 1680. Sts. 1, 3, 5 Trans. By Catherine Winkworth, 1863. St. 2 by Paul Schilling, st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 (Ps. 103:1-6, 150).
Music: Erneuertem Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennet, 1864. Music is Public Domain. Trans. Sts. 2 and 4 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.
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Anthem

God Is Our Refuge and Strength

A. Pote

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

God My Rock

When my heart is overwhelmed, I will look to you alone,
God, my rock, God, my rock, God, my rock.
You will stand when others fall;
you are faithful through it all,
God, my rock, God, my rock, God, my rock.
In the blessing, in the pain,
through it all, you've never failed me.
You are the strength of my heart.
You are the strength of my heart.
I can rely on you. I can rely on you.

(instrumental interlude)

You are the strength of my heart.
You are the strength of my heart.
I can rely on you. I can rely on you.
You are the joy of my life.
You are my song in the night.
There is no one as true. Jesus, I trust in you, yeah!

(instrumental interlude)

When I've struggled to believe, you have not let go of me,
God, my rock, God, my rock, God, my rock.
Carried through the darkest storms,
you have held me in your arms,
God, my rock, God, my rock, God, my rock.
In the blessing, in the pain,
through it all, you've never failed me.
You are the strength of my heart.
You are the strength of my heart.
I can rely on you. I can rely on you.

Jesus, we trust in you! Jesus, we trust in you!
Jesus, we trust in you! Jesus, we trust in you, God!

You are the strength of my heart.
You are the strength of my heart.
I can rely on you. I can rely on you.
You are the joy of my life.
You are my song in the night.
There is no one as true. Jesus, I trust in you (yeah).

You are the joy of my life.
You are my song in the night.
There is no one as true. Jesus, I trust in you, yeah!

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Scripture Reading – Mark 13:1-8

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

Message

Illusions of Permanence

Response

Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

529

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Words: Rippon's A Selection of Hymns 1787
Music: early USA melody; harm. from Tabor, 1866
Public Domain

Prayer of Intercession

Passing the Peace

The Lord is our deliverer, our salvation, our refuge. This is good. Let us absorb this faith into our souls and allow it to bring us deepest peace. Breathe deep and take in the peace of Christ.

[pause for breath]

*Now share that peace with one another. **The peace of Christ be with you.***

Invitation to the Offering

Moment of Meditation

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

Sending

Song

Forever

Give thanks to the Lord,
our God and King;
his love endures forever.
For he is good, he is above all things;
his love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand
and an outstretched arm;
his love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn;
his love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.
Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful,
forever God is strong,
forever God is with us, forever,
forever.

From the rising to the setting sun
his love endures forever.
And by the grace of God we will carry on;
his love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.
sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful,
forever God is strong,
forever God is with us, forever.

Forever God is faithful,
forever God is strong,
forever God is with us, forever,
forever.

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Benediction

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

W. Held

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Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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