

- **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

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

R. Haan

### Greeting and Announcements

### Call to Worship

*Something stirs deep within us – a longing, a hope,  
a thirst for joy, a hunger for peace, a yearning for blessing.  
We know deep within that our hopes and fears  
will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.  
It is Advent - season of waiting, hoping, yearning.  
Advent - time to go home.*

### Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

211, vs 1,2,4,6,7

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,  
an ensign of thy people be;  
before thee rulers silent fall;  
all peoples on thy mercy call.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7. O come, Desire of nations bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind.  
From dust thou brought us forth to life;  
deliver us from earthly strife.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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### Lighting the Advent Candle - HOPE

*For the signs in the sun and the moon and the stars,  
**we light this candle of hope.***  
*For the unknown and the not yet,  
**we light this candle of hope.***  
*For seeds planted in hope and prayers prayed in earnest,  
**we light this candle of hope.***  
*For doubt and confusion,  
**we light this candle of hope.***  
*For these days of wandering and wondering,  
**we light this candle of hope.***  
*For all that we didn't know we were waiting for,  
**we light this candle of hope.***

## Proclamation

### Prayer for Illumination

*Righteous one, to you alone we lift our souls;  
in you alone, we place our trust; for you alone we wait all day long.  
For you are the God of our salvation, abounding in mercy and steadfast love.  
Help us remain alert and watchful for the coming of your promised one—  
the one who comes with power and glory, the one drawing near to bring our salvation. Amen.*

### Song of Response

#### He Came Down

2085

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.

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### Scripture Reading – Psalm 25:1-10

Responsively

*(Refrain played once, sung by vocalists, then sung by all)*

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; to you I lift my soul.**

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*I offer my life to you, Lord.*

**My God, I trust you.**

*Please don't let me be put to shame!*

**Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!**

*For that matter,*

*don't let anyone who hopes in you*

*be put to shame;*

**instead, let those who are treacherous  
without excuse be put to shame.**

***(Refrain sung by all)***

*Make your ways known to me, Lord;*

**teach me your paths.**

*Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—*

*because you are the God who saves me.*

**I put my hope in you all day long.**

*Lord, remember your compassion  
and faithful love—*

**they are forever!**

*But don't remember the sins of my youth  
or my wrongdoing.*

**Remember me only according**

**to your faithful love**

**for the sake of your goodness, Lord.**

***(Refrain sung by all)***

*The Lord is good and does the right thing;*

**he teaches sinners**

**which way they should go.**

*God guides the weak to justice,*

**teaching them his way.**

*All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful*

**for those who keep his covenant and laws.**

### Song of Response

#### Come Light Our Hearts

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you,  
truly our hope is in you.

1. O Lord of life, our only hope,  
your radiance shines  
on all who look to you in the dark.  
Emmanuel come,  
come light our hearts.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you,  
truly our hope is in you.

2. Oh joy above all other loves,  
in you we find more than enough.  
We come as we are;  
O heal and restore,  
come light our hearts.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you,  
truly our hope is in you.

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## Scripture Reading – Jeremiah 33:14-16

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

**Anthem**     *There Shall Come Forth a Shoot from Jesse*     H. Hopson

**Message**     *The Branch*     *(Come Back for Christmas, Part 1)*

## Response

**Song of Response**     *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*     2100

1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,  
when thou camest to earth for me;  
but in Bethlehem's home there was found no room  
for thy holy nativity.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.

2. Heaven's arches rang when the angles sang,  
proclaiming thy royal degree;  
but in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,  
and in great humility.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.

3. The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest  
in the shade of the forest tree;  
but thy couch was the sod, O thou Son of God,  
in the deserts of Galilee.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.

4. Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word  
that should set thy people free;  
but with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,  
they bore thee to Calvary.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.

5. When heav'n's arches shall ring and its choir shall sing  
at thy coming to victory,  
let thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,  
there is room at my side for thee!"  
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,  
when thou comest and callest for me.

Text by Timothy R. Matthews  
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**Prayers of the People**     *...Come, Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.*     Response sung by all

### 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.**

### Invitation to the Offering

### Moment of Meditation

### 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.**

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### Prayer of Dedication

## Sending

### *Into the Darkness*

#### Song

1. Into the darkness of this world,  
into the shadows of the night,  
into this loveless place you came,  
lightened our burdens, eased our pain,  
and made these hearts your home.  
Into the darkness once again,  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love to make us whole;  
come with your light to lead us on,  
driving the darkness far from our souls.  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

2. Into the longing of our souls,  
into these heavy hearts of stone,  
shine on us now your piercing light;  
order our lives and souls aright  
by grace and love unknown,  
until in you our hearts unite.  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love to make us whole;  
come with your light to lead us on,  
driving the darkness far from our souls.  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

3. O Holy Child, Emmanuel,  
Hope of the ages, God with us,  
visit again this broken place  
till all the earth declares your praise  
and your great mercies own.  
Now let your love be born in us.  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in your glory; take your place,  
Jesus, the name above all names.  
We long to see you face to face.  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

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#### 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, O Come, Emmanuel*

Ch. Ore

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Call to Worship. Dr. Derek C. Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, Discipleship Ministries of the UMC. / *Lighting the Advent Candle* © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2021 Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFusion Advent • Christmas • Epiphany 2021–2022 / *Prayer for Illumination*. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/alt/> / *Prayers of the People*. Rick Morley, <http://www.rickmorley.com/> / *Prayer of Dedication*. ©2021 Discipleship Ministries, An Agency of the United Methodist Church. / *Passing the Peace*. The Iona Community, Scotland

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