

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

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[YouTube Channel](#)



ORGANIZED 1816

*To those who seek the joy of sharing
in worship and praise; to those
who seek to know and serve the Lord,
our Church opens wide its doors.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026
11:00 AM

Gathering of the People

Prelude
Welcome

Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness

Johannes Brahms

Praise of God

Call to Worship (from Psalm 119:33-40)

One: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

All: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

One: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

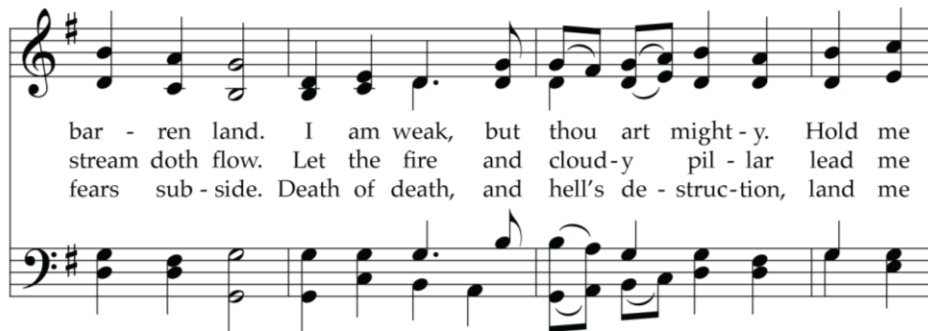
All: Turn my heart to your decrees; in your righteousness be gracious to me.

* Hymn No. 65

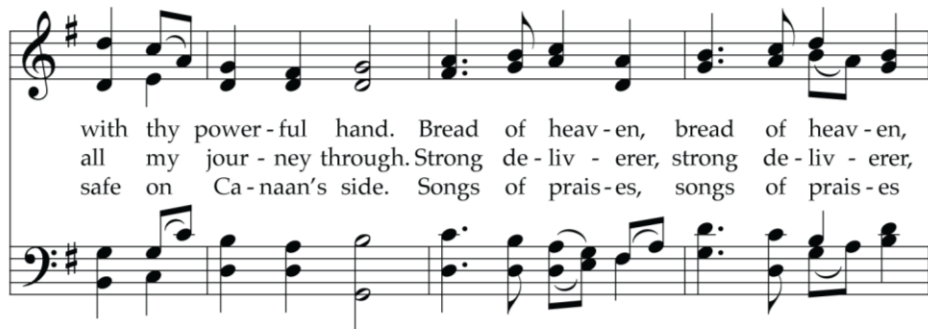
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, we have judged others harshly, unfairly and casually. We tend to focus on the sin, brokenness and foibles of others, rather than on the growth and work we are called to. We've made assumptions about what others want and need, robbing them of the freedom to speak for themselves. We've tuned out the voices bold enough to express views that are different from ours. We've relied upon your grace, time and time again, while hastily denying that you are eager to give it not only to us, but to our enemies, also. Help us to see others as you see them; help us to see you with faith and trust.

Silent Individual Confession

Sung Response No. 414

Be Still and Know That I Am God

Please join in singing this response.

Capo 4: (C) (Am) (C7) (Am)
E* C#m* E7 C#m

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Words of Forgiveness (Exodus 34:6, Ezekiel 33:11)

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, calling all to turn from sin, and live.

All: By the grace of God, our sins are forgiven. Amen.

* Response No. 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Please join in singing this response.

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

Sharing of God's Word

Conversation with the Children

Barbara Younger

Prayer for Illumination

Anthem

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

arr. Julius Röntgen

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:15-22 (pg. 1195)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Choking on forgiveness

Reverend Joy Alford

Response to the Gospel

* Hymn No. 484

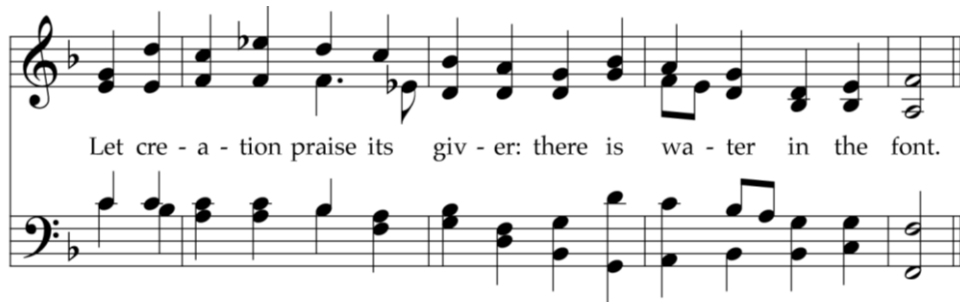
Out of Deep, Unordered Water

1 Out of deep, un - or - dered wa - ter God cre -
2 Wa - ter on the hu - man fore - head, birth - mark
3 Stand - ing round the font re - minds us of the

at - ed light and land, world of bird and beast and,
of the love of God, is the sign of death and
He - brews' climb a - shore. Life is hal - lowed by the

lat - er, in God's im - age, wom - an, man.
ris - ing; through the seas there runs a road.
knowl - edge God has been this way be - fore.

There is wa - ter in the riv - er bring - ing life to tree and plant.



Prayers of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory

Adagio

Vivaldi/Bach

* Hymn of Dedication No. 606 ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** Old One Hundredth

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

* Prayer of Dedication

* Affirmation of Faith (from The Confession of 1967)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as a reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from one another. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to God's call.

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

* Hymn No. 30

O God, in a Mysterious Way

* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude

Concerto in B minor: Allegro

Bach/Walther



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CHURCH NOTES

September 13, 2026

WELCOME VISITORS! We welcome you to Hillsborough Presbyterian Church and to this worship and this live-stream service. We are truly pleased that you have chosen to worship with us today because we believe that everyone who enters these doors is God’s guest. We welcome all to be part of our community of faith, and participate in any of our activities and events.

Assisting in Worship today:

Liturgist: Sara Clay

Children’s Sermon: Barbara Younger

Guest Musician: Thomas Bloom

Acolyte: Luke Bernard

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

Video: David and Kathy Remington

Join us for **Lemonade on the Lawn** immediately following worship on Sundays, September 13 and 20. Lemonade on the Lawn will resume in the Spring.

The **Congregational Care Committee** will meet on Sunday, September 13, immediately following worship in Room #204. Questions? See Sam Nesbit or Jan McKelvey.

Circle #1 will meet on Monday, September 14, at 11:00 AM in Room #204. All are welcome, bring your lunch and join us! Questions? See Karoline Mathewson.

The **Community Outreach Committee** will meet on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:00 PM in Room #204 and on Zoom. Questions? See Linda Jaubert.

The **Knitting Group** will meet on Wednesday, September 16, at 12:30 in the HPC Parlor. Questions? See Sara Clay.

The **HPC Choir Potluck and Rehearsal** will be on Wednesday, September 16, at 6 PM in Strudwick. Questions? See Cheryl Maxey.

HPC Coffee & Tea Club will gather on Thursday, September 17, at 9:00 AM at Weaver Street Market. All are welcome to join us! Questions? See Joe Crane.

The **Finish-It-Friday** group will meet on Friday, September 18th. Bring any craft project and work on it in Strudwick with friends (knitting, crochet, painting, sewing, quilting, etc). We start at 6:00 PM and end at 11:00 PM. Come any time during that period. We will order pizza, or you can bring your dinner. There is plenty of room to spread out to work and visit. Questions? See Ann Sebesan.

HPC FALL WORKDAY - Saturday, September 19th, from 9:00am-12:00 Noon. All are welcome – there will be tasks for all! Our quarterly B&G Committee meeting will be at 11:00am in Strudwick Hall on 9/19. The Agenda: Request for 2nd AED at the Sanctuary, wait until 2027 to do further Stucco repairs, do B&G Policies updates. Questions? See Jan McKelvey.

We will be collecting the World Communion Offering on September 20, 27 and October 4th, which is World Communion Sunday. All of God's people gather around the Table to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Part of the atonement that happens around this Table is reconciliation, which is the focus of the World Communion Offering. Experience the grace that comes from reconciling all peoples from all nations around the corner and around the globe through the ministry of this offering. You can give your offering with cash (using an envelope stating it is for the World Communion offering), by check and putting World Communion in the memo line, or you can use the online link from our website (on the dropdown list select “PC-USA Outreach”).

HPC Book Club will meet on Sunday, September 20th, in Strudwick Hall. Bring your lunch. We will be discussing “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver. Questions? See Rich Erdosy.

HPC's 210th Anniversary will be on **Sunday, September 27!** Join us following worship for a potluck celebration in Strudwick Hall – Bring a **covered dish** of your choice (main dish, side dish, or dessert) to our Potluck Luncheon in Strudwick Hall following our worship service. Congregational Care Committee will provide beverages.

Save the date for upcoming October Events! Please mark your calendars now for two major upcoming events with HPC's faith community partners:

Heaven Practice Housing Launch (Sunday, October 11, 6:00 pm, Mount Zion AME Church, 5124 NC-86 North, Hillsborough, NC): Join Justice United, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, and community partners to publicly launch our Heaven Practice Housing fundraising campaign to expand deeply affordable housing as part of the Auman Village Habitat development. This event takes the place of our usual quarterly Heaven Practice worship, so please attend! You can Register at: <https://www.ocjusticeunited.org/heavenpractice>.

Statewide Candidate Assembly (Sunday, October 18, 5:00-6:30 pm in Raleigh): Join with Justice United and our sister organizations from across North Carolina in a nonpartisan public forum with our candidates for the U.S. Senate, to ask for commitments to support our priorities of affordable housing, healthcare, public education, immigration, and worker's rights. Federal actions greatly affect our ability to address issues important to our local community partners, and this is our best opportunity to make our voices heard at the federal level. A large turnout is essential to convey to the candidates a groundswell of support for our priorities.

The 11 member Syrian family hosted by Welcome House last year are encountering challenges. Their SNAP benefits were cut, and they were informed that the father and mother will be cut from Medicaid. In response, New Hope Presbyterian Church has started a fund to help the family with food costs until their green cards are processed. Donations can be sent by check to New Hope Presbyterian Church, 4701 NC 86, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, with “Welcome House Refugee Fund” on the memo line. Questions? See Ann Sebesan.

2026 Flower Chart – Sign up and share with your Church the joy of an anniversary, a special occasion, or memorialize someone important to you! Sign up on the sheet outside the church office or drop us an email! (Open dates: October 11, 18, 25, November 8, 15) (hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)

WAYS TO GIVE - Giving Opportunities

The residents of **Orange County Correctional** are in need of personal hygiene items. Regular size toothpaste; Arm and Hammer Deodorant, Suave 3 in 1 body wash and shampoo. These can be brought to the OCC basket in the Narthex. They will be picked up and delivered monthly. Thank you for any items and prayers for our neighbors. Questions? See Robin Barnhill.

Many of you are aware of **OCIM** and its feeding of those in need. We are known as the “peanut butter church”. There is always a need for peanut butter --- creamy peanut butter, preferably. You may place donations in the covered OCIM basket in the Narthex at any time. **Right now they are also in need of:** Mustard, Canned potatoes, Canned pears, Canned mixed fruit, Toothbrushes (singles), Toothpaste.

Check out our **HPC WEBSITE** at www.hillsboroughpres.org – click on any event on our calendar page for details! You will also find the monthly newsletter and Sunday bulletin posted on this website! A great way to keep up with what’s happening at HPC!

To share a prayer request or a concern, please contact:
Jane McIver, Clerk of Session, jane.mciver54@gmail.com,
Sam Nesbit, Congregational Care, sam.nesbit.dds@gmail.com,
or the Church Office, 919-732-3131



Volunteer for CE Programs -
Nursery, Sunday School,
and Youth Group.



Give
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THIS SUNDAY: September 13 Sunday School Kick-off!

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 14:9-31; Psalm 114; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

9:45 AM Sunday School Breakfast and Fellowship for all ages!
(Strudwick)

11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)

12:15 PM Lemonade on Lawn (Sebesan Family)

12:15 PM Congregational Care Meeting (#204)

Mon - 11:00 AM Circle #1 (#204)

Tue - 7:00 PM Community Outreach Meeting (#204 and Zoom)

Wed - 12:30 PM HPC Knitting Group (Parlor)

6:00 PM Choir Potluck and Rehearsal (Strudwick)

Thu - 9:00 AM HPC Coffee and Tea Club (Weaver Street Market)

Fri - 6:00 PM Finish-it-Friday (Strudwick Hall)

Sat - 9:00 AM HPC Fall Work Day

11:00 AM Building & Grounds Meeting (Strudwick Hall)

Volunteers:

Guest Preacher: Rev. Joy Alford

Liturgist: Sara Clay

Children's Sermon: Barbara Younger

Guest Musician: Tom Bloom

Acolyte: Luke Bernard

Flowers: TBD

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

Video: David and Kathy Remington

NEXT SUNDAY: September 20 World Communion Offering

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!

11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)
- World Communion Offering

12:15 PM Lemonade on Lawn (O'Connor Family)

12:15 PM HPC Book Club (Strudwick Hall)

Volunteers:

Guest Preacher: Rev. Jack Donovan

Liturgist and Children's Sermon: David Remington

Musician: Clifford Badgley

Acolyte: TBD

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, TBD

Flowers: O'Connor Family

Video: Martin and Judy Brown