

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

102 West Tryon Street
Hillsborough, N. C. 27278
919-732-3131

Post Office Box 717

www.hillsboroughpres.org

[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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

11:00 AM

Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor

Beth Jordan, Music Director

JoAnn Harrison, Secretary

Gathering of the People

Prelude

Up On a Housetop
Swing Swing, Merrily on High
Triangle Tuba Quartet

Benjamin Hanby
Traditional

Welcome

Praise of God

Call to Worship

(Unless otherwise noted, all liturgy and prayers written or adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

One: Here in worship—

All: we pray together,

One: we stand together,

All: we sing together,

One: we listen together.

All: Here in worship—we are not alone.

One: So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry, remember this moment.

All: We are not alone. Let us worship our with-us God.

* Hymn No. 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and 8/8 time. It consists of five staves of music. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Am7, G, C, D, G, C, Am7, D7, G, Am7, G, C, D, G, Am7, D, Em, Am, D, Em, D7, G, C, B7, Em, Am7, D7, G, C, G. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some lines indented to align with specific notes.

1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the
her - ald its dawn-ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with
born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and
weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill
wide the heav - en - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Jim and Karoline Mathewson and Family

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (from the PCUSA)

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You offer us a place in your house, yet we find no room for you in our lives. You invite us into your eternal realm, yet we fail to welcome others. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your word of life be with us so that we may truly believe that nothing is impossible with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Individual Confession

Sung Response No. 90

Wait for the Lord

Please join in singing this response.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Words of Forgiveness (from the PCUSA)

One: Hear these words from Isaiah: "Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

All: With the arrival of Christ, God speaks to us forgiveness and grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God, 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^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F

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

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7

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

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm

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

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm) (A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

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

Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Barbara Younger

arr. Parker

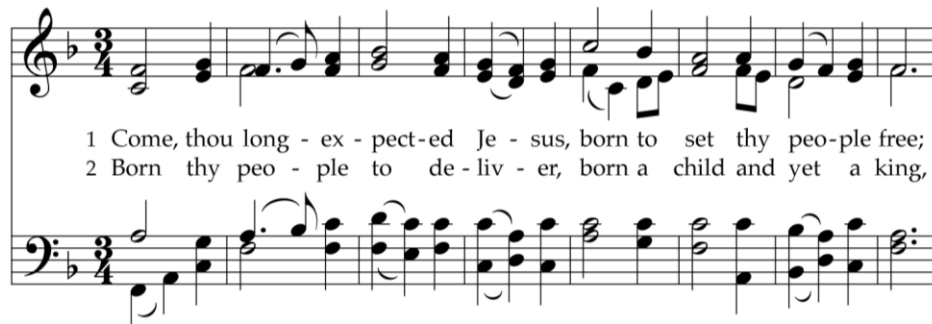
Matthew 1:18-25 (pg. 1170)

Reverend Alex Fischer

Response to the Gospel

* Hymn No. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

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

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Anonymous

Triangle Tuba Quartet

* Hymn of Dedication No. 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Affirmation of Faith (from the Confession of 1967)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

* Hymn No. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

The musical score is written for a Triangle Tuba Quartet in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The lyrics are: 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near! 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove. 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace, Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place. Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry. Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing. All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing. Refrain O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,
Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.
Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.
Refrain O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont

Triangle Tuba Quartet



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CHURCH NOTES

December 21, 2025

WELCOME VISITORS! We welcome you to Hillsborough Presbyterian Church and to this worship 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: Ann Sebesan

Children’s Sermon: Barbara Younger

Advent Candles: Jim and Karoline Mathewson and Family

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Jennifer Hall

Video: Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson

We welcome **The Triangle Tuba Quartet** which was formed in 1999 and is made up of Paul Gramann and Glenn Wilkinson on euphonium and Dan Clouse and Irv Eisen on tuba. You can learn more about them and hear samples of their music on their website, <https://www.triangletubas.com/>.

We will receive the **Christmas Joy Offering** on Sunday, December 21st. The Christmas Joy offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. You can give your offering with cash (using an envelope stating it is for the Joy Gift offering), by check and putting Joy Gift in the memo line, or you can use the online link from our website. The dropdown list includes the Joy Gift Offering. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years, so please give generously.

Christmas Eve - We will have a family-focused early service at 5:30pm beginning in Strudwick Hall. This will be a lot like last year’s early service, where this is movement and participation in the telling of the Christmas story. Then we will have our traditional service with communion and candles at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to either (or both) of these services!

The Christian Education Committee will host a **Fellowship Breakfast** on Sunday, December 28 (in lieu of Sunday School) at 9:45 a.m. in Strudwick Hall. Coffee and juice and an assortment of breads and fruit will be provided. If you have a favorite breakfast dish that you would like to share, please bring it with you, or just come and enjoy a light breakfast and fellowship with your church family.

New Hope Camp Urgent Appeal: Numbers of campers and retreat groups dramatically declined in 2025 due to economic pressures throughout the nation and in North Carolina. Without funds to run New Hope Camp, programs for children will be reduced or discontinued in 2026. Staff will be laid off. Please prayerfully consider donating any amount you can manage to New Hope Camp. Designate your donation to the camp as part of your Sunday offering to HPC, or donate directly to New Hope Camp on their website: <https://newhopedonations.campbraingiving.com/>

Cold Weather Shelter: Blake Rosser, Director of the Orange County Housing Department, has expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the congregations at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church to host a Cold Weather Shelter in Hillsborough. After December 14, the program in Hillsborough will be suspended, while the Chapel Hill Cold Weather Shelter will remain open on activated White Flag Cold Weather nights. The County will provide transportation as needed. Watch for news about how you can continue to support this effort at the Chapel Hill location. Thank you! Questions? Ask David Remington or Jan McKelvey.

WAYS TO GIVE - Giving Opportunities

The residents of **Orange County Correctional** are in need of personal hygiene items this Spring. 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 peanut butter in the covered OCIM basket in the Narthex at any time. A jar can go in every bag given to a client. You can always see immediate needs in the weekly NewsFlash.

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!

In an emergency or to share a concern, please contact the church office, 919-732-3131. You may also contact the Pastor, Reverend Alex Fischer, at hillsboroughpresrev@gmail.com.



Give

app.easytithe.com

THIS SUNDAY: December 21 Advent IV

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)

Wed - 5:30 PM Family Christmas Eve Service (Strudwick Hall)
7:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship and Communion

JoAnn away from office through January 5

Volunteers:

Liturgist: Ann Sebesan
Children's Sermon: Barbara Younger
Advent Candles: Jim and Karoline Mathewson and Family
Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Jennifer Hall
Video: Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson

NEXT SUNDAY: December 28 Lessons and Carols

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148;
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

9:45 AM Fellowship Breakfast in Strudwick Hall – for all ages!
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)

Volunteers:

Acolyte: Mary Jeanne Magill
Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, TBD
Video: David and Kathy Remington