

# Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

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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

**First Sunday in Lent**

**February 22, 2026**

**11:00 AM**

*Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor*

*Beth Jordan, Music Director      JoAnn Harrison, Secretary*

### Gathering of the People

*Largo*

Vivaldi

Prelude  
Welcome  
Introit

*Make a Joyful Noise and Shalom*

Joyful Noise Choir

## 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](http://sanctifiedart.org))*

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

One: So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

**All: Let us worship this good-news God.**

\* Hymn No. 415

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the piano, marked 'All or Leader', and the bottom staff is for the voice, marked 'All'. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of four flats. The vocal part includes lyrics for four stanzas and a refrain. The piano part includes harmonic support and a bass line.

*All or Leader*

*All*

1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,  
2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty  
3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined  
4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,  
glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,  
by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,  
fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

*Refrain*

*All*

full of pit - y, love, and power.  
ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.  
you will nev - er come at all. I will a - rise and  
is to feel your need of him.

go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms. In the

arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou-sand charms.

## Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our energy and our questions at the door.**

But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

Silent Individual Confession

Sung Response No. 578

### *O Lord, Have Mercy*

*Please join in singing this response.*

Capo 2: (G) (C) (D) (G)  
A D E A

1 O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy;  
2 O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy;  
(E) (Am) (D) (G)  
F# Bm E A

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.  
Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

Words of Forgiveness

One: God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

**All: Of course, of course, of course. This is the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God!**  
**Amen.**

\* 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.

(F) (C) (Dm) (Em) (Fmaj7) (G7)  
A E F#m G#m Amaj7 B7

Be still and know that I am God.

## Sharing of God's Word

Conversation with the Children

Will Lang

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

John 2:1-11 (pg. 1291)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*If You Had Faith*

Cooney & Lederman

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-32 (pg. 1187)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Reverend Alex Fischer

## Response to the Gospel

\* Hymn No. 771

*What Is the World Like*

Capo 1: (G) (Em7) (C) (D)  
A♭ Fm7 D♭ B♭m E♭

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) (C) (Am) (B7)  
Fm D♭ B♭m C7

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:  
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;  
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;  
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,  
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) (Am) (D) (G)  
Fm B♭m E♭ A♭

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.  
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) (Em7) (Am7) (D) (G)  
D♭ Fm7 B♭m7 E♭ A♭

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

## 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

\* Hymn of Dedication No. 701

### *Lord, Prepare Me*

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so we believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. We have seen it alive in the world. And even when our hearts ache, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, we remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. We remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. We remember that the good news really is good news, for we have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

## Go Forth to Serve

### Invitation to Share and Serve

\* Hymn No. 432

### *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A)(D)  
E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call  
2 But if, for-get-ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:  
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth-er or a - lone,  
to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re -  
if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -  
whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your  
in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to  
stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.  
name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.  
you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav-ored, done.

\* Charge and Benediction  
\* Postlude

Ich ruf zu dir

†††††††

Bach

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## CHURCH NOTES -- February 22, 2026

**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.

The **FLOWERS** are shared today with thankfulness to God by Vibeke and Joe Talley for Charles Absalon Talley born in Durham, NC to David Talley, who grew up in this church, and his wife Julie last October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Assisting in Worship today:

**Liturgist and Children’s Sermon:** Will Lang

**Acolyte:** Gabe Hall

**Nursery:** Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Stephanie Morgan

**Video:** Martin and Judy Brown

The Youth Group is sponsoring our **SOUPER BOWL collection in February** - This year the Youth are focusing on collecting monetary donations for the purchasing of canned goods and other essential food items for OCIM. The Youth have set a goal of collecting \$2,500 for this purpose. For the past two years, we have worked with OCIM administration to ensure our collected funds went toward the purchase of the canned items that were in highest need. The Youth and Eric will take any donated canned goods directly to OCIM during the month of February. Monetary donations may be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering. Please designate the intent of the funds “OCIM Souper Bowl”. Thank you for your continued support of our community through OCIM.

**HPC’s Youth Group** (grades 6-12) will gather at 5:00 PM on Sundays, at 5:00 PM in Strudwick Hall. Interested in being an adult volunteer? Other questions? See Eric Cathey.

**Joyful Noise Children’s Choir** will meet on Sunday, February 22, at 9:45 AM in Room #221 for rehearsal. They will sing in worship on February 22. Questions? See Beth Jordan.

**Congregational Care Committee** meeting has been re-scheduled to Sunday, February 22, at 12:15 pm in Room #204 following worship.

The **Stewardship Committee** will meet on Thursday, February 26, at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Questions? See Martin Brown.

**Women's Fellowship** – Last Saturday breakfasts will resume at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 28, in Strudwick Hall. A light breakfast (fruit and pastry) will be provided. Please join other women in the church for a time of food and fellowship. Children are welcome. A breakfast table will be set up for the little ones. Questions, see Karoline Mathewson.

**Intergenerational Sunday School** series - "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" based on Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering and exploring again. On **March 1, 8, 15 and 22**, we'll all gather in Strudwick Hall during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) to learn and engage in lessons from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. The four lessons foster kindness and community and focus on empathy and neighborhood building for all ages. Together, we'll enjoy stories, songs, activities, and memorable clips like this one - watch the "Mister Roger's Neighborhood: Opening Theme": [bit.ly/NeighborhoodOpeningVideo](https://bit.ly/NeighborhoodOpeningVideo)

**HPC Directory** – If you have any updates for the HPC Directory – please pass them along to the church office. Need a new photo? Let us know that too! ([hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org](mailto:hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org))

An invitation to a **Community Lecture Series** offered by the Orange County Historical Museum as we celebrate 250 years of our country – all are welcome! Talks will be highlighting important historical documents. Join them on Saturdays, March 7, 21, 28. All talks begin at 4:30 PM in Strudwick Hall.

**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 with a date! ([hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org](mailto:hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org))

**New Hope Camp** has long been a place where people of all ages grow in faith, fellowship and leadership. The camp is seeking volunteers to serve on committees: Finance, B&G, Strategic Growth & Marketing, Personnel. Camp staff and Board directors are working hard to re-vitalize the camp. We need your time and talents. Donations can be designated as part of your Sunday offering at HPC or donate directly to <https://newhopedonations.campbraingiving.com/>. Contact: Jan McKelvey, HPC representative to New Hope Camp.

**Cold Weather Shelter:** Hillsborough residents needing transportation to the Chapel Hill cold weather shelter may contact the Street Outreach Team by 6 p.m. at (919) 886-3351 for assistance. For the month of February, four churches in Chapel Hill will manage the food service to the Chapel Hill shelter. Questions? Ask David Remington or Jan McKelvey. **NOTE:** Church members hosting evening groups should be aware that unhoused people may ask for assistance. Let's help them by either calling the Street Outreach Team, or taking them down to the Chapel Hill shelter if that is the best option. Location: 828 MLK Jr. Blvd.

### **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.

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Check out our **HPC WEBSITE** at [www.hillsboroughpres.org](http://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](mailto:hillsboroughpresrev@gmail.com).



**Give**

[app.easytithe.com](http://app.easytithe.com)

## **THIS SUNDAY: February 22 First Sunday in Lent**

**Lectionary Readings:** Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!  
9:45 AM Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal (#221)  
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)  
12:15 PM Congregational Care Meeting (#204)  
5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

**Mon** - 7:00 PM Session Meeting (#204/Zoom)

**Wed** - 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (#221)

**Thu** - 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting (Zoom)

**Sat** - 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Strudwick)

### **Volunteers:**

**Liturgist:** Will Lang

**Children's Sermon:** Will Lang

**Acolyte:** Gabe Hall

**Nursery:** Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Stephanie Morgan

**Video:** Martin and Judy Brown

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## **NEXT SUNDAY: March 1 Second Sunday in Lent**

**Lectionary Readings:** Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages! (Strudwick Hall)  
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)  
5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

### **Volunteers:**

**Liturgist:** Jane McIver

**Children's Sermon:** Jane McIver

**Acolyte:** TBD

**Nursery:** Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Chris O'Connor

**Video:** Joe Crane, Hervey McIver