

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

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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
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 18, 2026
11:00 AM

Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor
Beth Jordan, Music Director *JoAnn Harrison, Secretary*

Gathering of the People

Prelude
Welcome

Gather Us In

Honore

Praise of God

Call to Worship

One: Come and see,

Many: The One who takes away the sin of the world is here!

One: Come and behold,

Many: The One who gives us the Spirit is in our midst.

One: Come and witness.

Many: The One who calls us is beckoning us on a journey.

One: Come and receive,

Many: New life and abundant grace are here. Let us worship the Lord!

* Hymn No. 401

Here in this Place



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession

Searcher of hearts, you know us from the beginning. You see in us more good and beauty than we have dared to believe. You beckon us to do more than we have dared to try. You are always calling our names. But we have filled our ears with other things; noise and distraction are all around us. We have only timidly spoken of your great love. We have doubted the gifts hidden within each of us.

Gracious God, shine your forgiving light into our hesitancy. Embolden us to live with such joy and fire that all the world may know of your love. In Christ's name, we pray.

Silent Individual Confession
Sung Response No. 698

Take, O Take Me as I Am
Please join in singing this response.

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Again and again, Christ keeps beckoning us to “Come and see.” God gives us a new vision and a new way forward.

Many: By God’s unfailing love, we are forgiven and made new again. 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

Jane McIver

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 1:1-9 (pg. 1387)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Here Comes the Light

Graham

Scripture Reading

John 1:29-42 (pg. 1290)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reverend Alex Fischer

Response to the Gospel

* Hymn No. 292

As the Wind Song

1 As the wind song through the trees, as the
2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the

stir - ring of the breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of
hope that's born a - gain, so it is with the Spir - it of

God, as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the
God, as the green in the spring, as a

voice with - in the storm, so it is with the Spir - it of
kite on a string, so it is with the Spir - it of

God. Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has
God, mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come

blown bring - ing life, bring - ing power to the world,
true, bring - ing gifts, bring - ing love to the world,

as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -
as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the

Chords: C, G, C/G, G, Em, Bm, Am, D, Em, Em/D, C, G/B, Am7, D, G, Em, Bm, C, G, Em, Bm, Am, D, Em, Em/D, C

G/B Am7 D G

sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.

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. 609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* Prayer of Dedication

* Affirmation of Faith (Colossians 1:15-20)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through Christ and for Christ. He himself bore all things and in him all things hold together. Christ is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

* Hymn No. 295

Go to the World!

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

Go to the World

Wright



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CHURCH NOTES

January 18, 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 to the Glory of God and in honor of Dr. Edward E. Ferguson by his family, as they remember his birthday.

Assisting in Worship today:

Liturgist: Vernon Cooper

Children’s Sermon: Jane McIver

Acolyte: Luke Bernard

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

Video: Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson

The annual **Northern Orange Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** celebrations are coming up! These events are an important opportunity to build togetherness across the divides that have separated God's people over the decades, and to stand with one another to face our current challenges together. Please put the following events on your calendar and make plans to attend if you are able:

- The MLK March is on Monday, January 19, starting at 9:00 am. We will be marching from the Old Courthouse to Mt. Bright Missionary Baptist Church.
- The MLK Commemorative Program is on Monday, January 19, 10:00 am, Mt. Bright Missionary Baptist Church: After the March, we gather together to celebrate and challenge one another with speeches from Oratorical Contest winners, music from the MLK Choir, and a guest speaker.

The **Community Outreach Committee** will meet in Room #204 or on Zoom at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 20. Questions? See Linda Jaubert.

The **HPC Knitting Group** is gathering at HPC! If you like to knit, crochet or do other needlework, join us Wednesday, January 21, from 12:30-2:30 in the parlor to work and enjoy community time. Questions? Contact Sara Clay sccclay@gmail.com or 919-732-7440.

The **Worship Committee** will meet in Room #204 or on Zoom at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 22. Questions? See Cheryl Morgan Maxey.

The **February “Church Mouse”** deadline will be Thursday, January 22. Please get articles and calendar events to the church office. (hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)

An invitation to a **Community Lecture Series** offered by the Orange County Historical Museum – all are welcome! Talks will begin by looking at the foundational documents of our country (see details in the HPC January newsletter). Join them on Saturdays, January 24 and 31 and again on February 7 and 14. All talks begin at 4:30 PM in Strudwick Hall.

Joyful Noise Children’s Choir will meet on Sunday, January 25, at 9:45 AM in Room #221 for rehearsal. They will sing in worship on January 25. Questions? See Beth Jordan.

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)

New Hope Camp has long been a place where people of all ages grow in faith, fellowship and leadership. The camp is currently 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. You can too! We need your time and talents. Donations for February are still needed. Designate 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, janmckelvey128@gmail.com, 919-260-9024, or catch me at church.

Cold Weather Shelter: The Chapel Hill Cold Weather Shelter will be open on activated White Flag Cold Weather nights. The County will provide transportation to the site as needed. One way we can continue to help is to provide meals for the Chapel Hill shelter. David Remington is glad to transport food over there to make this easier. Questions? Ask David Remington or Jan McKelvey. The SignUpGenius for preparing food or helping serve at the Chapel Hill site is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DA9AF2DA2FD0-59869192-meals#/>

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.



THIS SUNDAY: January 18

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

- 9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)
- 12:15 PM Building and Grounds meeting (#204)
- 5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

- Mon-** 9:00 AM MLK March
- 10:00 AM MLK Program at Mt. Bright (see details above!)
- 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting (#204/Zoom)
- Tue -** 7:00 PM Community Outreach Committee (#204/Zoom)
- Wed** –12:30 PM HPC Knitting Group (Parlor)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (#221)
- Thu -** 1:00 PM Deadline for February “Church Mouse”
- 7:00 PM Worship Committee (#204/Zoom)
- Fri -** 1:00 PM Deadline for Annual Session Reports
- Sat -** 4:30 PM Museum Community Lecture Series (Strudwick)

Volunteers:

- Liturgist:** Vernon Cooper
- Children’s Sermon:** Jane McIver
- Acolyte:** Luke Bernard
- Nursery:** Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey
- Video:** Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson

NEXT SUNDAY: January 25

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

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

Volunteers:

- Liturgist:** Rich Erdosy
- Children’s Sermon:** Rev. Alex Fischer
- Acolyte:** Nita Kate Shore
- Nursery:** Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Stephanie Morgan
- Video:** Martin and Judy Brown