

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

102 West Tryon Street
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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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

11:00 AM

Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor

Beth Jordan, Music Director

JoAnn Harrison, Secretary

Gathering of the People

Praise the Lord, O My Soul

Prelude
Welcome

Bender

Praise of God

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 31 and John 14)

One: We take refuge in you, Lord. You are the rock that protects and a strong fortress that saves!

All: Though we are troubled and afraid, we will continue to trust you!

One: We entrust our spirits in your hands; you are the God of faithfulness!

All: Our future is with you; we trust you to lead us in the Way.

One: Guide us for the sake of your good name. Shine your face on us and illuminate the path before us!

All: You are the way, the truth, and the life that we need!

One: Lead us in this time of worship;

All: Teach us the way of Christ.

* Hymn No. 311

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather



1 Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;
2 Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands;
3 Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease;
4 Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death-less love;



look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's de - mands.
where, O where, can wea - ry souls find the source of peace?
help us as we work and pray; send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:
While in dark-ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:
Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:
truth and cour - age, faith and power need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
Je - sus, Sav - ior, be our Way; be our Truth, our Life.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Silent Individual Confession

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.

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

Be still and know that I am God.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Beloved people of God, believe the good news:

All: Through the grace of Jesus, 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)
 Bb F Bb F Bb 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 Bb Eb Bb 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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands On Me

Reverend Alex Fischer

Psalm 31:1-5 (pg. 685)

arr. Hogan

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reverend Alex Fischer

Response to the Gospel

* Hymn No. 797

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

1 We can - not mea - sure how you heal or
 2 The pain that will not go a - way, the
 3 So some have come who need your help and

an - swer ev - ery suf - ferer's prayer, yet
 guilt that clings from things long past, the
 some have come to make a - mends, as

we be - lieve your grace re - sponds where
 fear of what the fu - ture holds, are
 hands which shaped and saved the world are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your
 pres - ent as if meant to last. But
 pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord,

hands, though blood - ied on the cross, sur -
 pres - ent too is love which tends the
 let your Spir - it meet us here to

vive to hold and heal and warn, to
hurt we nev - er hoped to find, the
mend the bod - y, mind, and soul, to

car - ry all through death to life and
pri - vate ag - o - nies in - side, the
dis - en - tan - gle peace from pain, and

cra - dle chil - dren yet un - born.
mem - o - ries that haunt the mind.
make your bro - ken peo - ple whole.

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 (from the Iona Abbey Worship Book)

With the whole church, we affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit. With people everywhere, we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity planted more deeply than all that is wrong. With all creation, we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purposes of God forever at work in ourselves and the world.

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

* Hymn No. 300

We Are One in the Spirit

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) D^b (Em) Fm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm (Am) B^bm (Bm) Cm (Em) (Am/E) (Em) Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate

Koch



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CHURCH NOTES - May 3, 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.

Assisting in Worship today:

Liturgist: Rich Erdosy

Children's Sermon: Rev. Alex Fischer

Acolyte: Gabe Hall

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

Video: Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson

Join us for a **Teacher Appreciation Reception** in Strudwick Hall immediately following worship on Sunday, May 3.

Join us for **Lemonade on the Lawn** immediately following worship on Sundays, May 10, 17, 24 and 31. To host, please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway outside the church office – we have open dates in May.

HPC's Youth Group (grades 6-12) will gather at 5:00 PM on Sundays, May 3 and 10, in Strudwick Hall. To provide a Sunday meal for our youth, please use sign-up genius: [Click Here](#). Youth Sunday will be Sunday, May 17, when our youth will lead worship. A Youth Fun Day is scheduled for May 31, details coming soon. Interested in being an adult volunteer? Other questions? See Eric Cathey.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir will meet on Sundays, May 3 and 10, at 9:45 AM in Room #221 for rehearsal. They will sing in worship on May 10. Questions? See Beth Jordan.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - Pardon our Mess! Beginning in the first week of May, there will be repairs on the exterior walls of the church near the Tryon Street entrance. Watch for signs to direct you for safe entry into the church. Electricity will be turned off Tuesday, May 5 - Friday, May 8, staff will be working remotely that week. We'll update you if other electrical shut-offs are necessary.

Christian Education Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 PM. Join us on Zoom. Questions? See Katherine Cathey.

HPC Coffee & Tea Club will gather on Thursday, May 7, at 9:00 AM at The Village Diner. All are welcome to join us! We'll also meet on Thursday, May 21, at 9:00 AM at Antonia's. Questions? See Joe Crane.

Pastor Alex will be away May 8 – 15. In case of a pastoral emergency, please be in touch with our on-call Deacon, Karoline Mathewson.

BEARD SCHOLARSHIP - HPC invites local graduating high school seniors to apply for the L.E. and Mary Beard Memorial Scholarship. Stalwarts of the Hillsborough community and members of HPC, Mr. and Mrs. Beard valued education as a tool for future success. The amount of the scholarship depends on the endowment earnings, which this year total \$2102.76. The applicant must have been accepted as a member of the incoming class at an accredited college or university. Completed applications are due in the HPC office by May 22, 2026. Please contact the church office or Lisa Watts for further requirements and an application form.

Through our **Faith in Hillsborough partnership with Habitat for Humanity** HPC can volunteer at the Weavers Grove housing project or Fairview. There is space for 10 volunteers (shared with St. Matthews). No skills are necessary but you must be 16 years or older for homebuilding and 14 for the community garden. For more details, please sign up online – use registration links below or look for the link to register in email from Hervey McIver sent April 21. Questions? Contact Jan McKelvey, Joe Crane or Hervey. Dates are:

May 9, 8:30-noon Weavers Grove homebuilding

[Click Here to Register](#)

June 13, 9:00-noon Fairview Community Garden Workday

[Click Here to Register](#)

New Hope Camp invites you to participate In **Bystander CPR/AED Training** offered at the camp on Saturday, June 6, at 9:00am. No charge. While this short course does not cover the CPR certification required at some places of employment, it does provide a completion certificate, and you could save a life! Register: <https://www.compressandshock.org/event-details/new-hope-camp-conference-center>
Goal: If there are 25 or more participants, New Hope Camp will receive a free AED. Let's keep our community safe and help the camp.

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: May 3, 10, 24, 31) (hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)

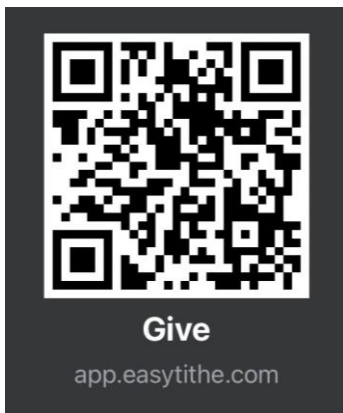
WAYS TO GIVE - Giving Opportunities

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: May 3 Teacher Appreciation

Lectionary Readings: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

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

Electricity off at HPC for exterior work: Tues – Fri, May 5 - 8

Pastor Alex away May 8 - 15

Tue - 7:00 PM Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)

Thu - 9:00 AM HPC Coffee and Tea Club (The Village Diner)

Sat - 8:30 AM HPC at Weavers Grove Habitat Build

Volunteers:

Liturgist: Rich Erdosy

Children’s Sermon: Rev. Alex Fischer

Acolyte: Gabe Hall

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

Flowers: TBD

Video: Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson

NEXT SUNDAY: May 10

Lectionary Readings: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

- 9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!
- 9:45 AM Joyful Noise Rehearsal (#221)
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)
- 12:15 PM Lemonade on Lawn (Nesbit Family)
- 5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

Volunteers:

Guest Speaker: Rev. Amanda Chamblee-Hill

Liturgist and Children’s Sermon: Will Lang

Acolyte: Mary Jeanne Magill

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, TBD

Flowers: TBD

Video: David and Kathy Remington