

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

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

December 14, 2025

11:00 AM

Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor

Beth Jordan, Music Director

JoAnn Harrison, Secretary

Gathering of the People

*Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn
He Came Down*

Prelude
Introit
Welcome

Sedio
Joyful Noise

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: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

All: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

One: Mary said, "How can this be?"

All: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

All: So may we trust the Inviter.

One: May we heed God's invitation.

All: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

* Hymn No. 105

People, Look East

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of three systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system has five lines of lyrics. The second system has three lines of lyrics. The third system has five lines of lyrics. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear cadence at the end of each system.

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look
a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:

Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.
 (Love is on the way.)

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Sean and Carly Bailey and Family

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray.

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

One: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

All: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God’s call. Amen.

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, 7 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, 7 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, 7 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

Will Lang

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38 (pg. 1243)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

A New Noel

arr. Boyd

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55 (pg. 1244)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reverend Alex Fischer

Response to the Gospel

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Em C D

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.

G D

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

Em C D Em

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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. 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 A Declaration of Faith)

One: What do we believe?

All: In Christ, God gave us a glimpse of the new creation God has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new.

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

* Hymn No. 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with four parts and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
night with new - born light. Night can - not this
son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude

Savior of the Nations Come

Siefert



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CHURCH NOTES

December 14, 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: Will Lang

Children’s Sermon: Will Lang

Advent Candles: Sean and Carly Bailey and Family

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

Video: Hervey McIver, Joe Crane

All Adults and Youth are invited to a church-wide Sunday School class in Strudwick Hall on Sundays, December 14 and 21. We will be studying Matthew 25, both the Scripture passage and the vision from the PCUSA. Please join us and be part of this discussion.

The **Joyful Noise Children’s Choir** will meet on Sunday, December 14, at 9:45 AM in Room #221 for rehearsal and will sing in worship. Questions? See Beth Jordan.

The **HPC Christmas Choir Concert and Reception** will be on Sunday, December 14, at 6:00 PM. As we look forward to sharing our wonderful choir with the congregation and community during this Christmas Season, we need finger foods for the reception following the concert. Please bring your food to HPC on December 14th.

We will receive the **Christmas Joy Offering** on Sundays, December 14th and 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.

The **Community Outreach Committee** will meet on Tuesday, December 16, on Zoom or in Room #204. Questions? See Linda Jaubert.

The **HPC Knitting Group** will meet on Wednesday, December 17, at 12:30 PM in the parlor. If you like to knit, crochet or do other needlework, join us! Questions? See Sara Clay.

Finish-It-Friday will meet in Strudwick Hall on Friday, December 19. Join us any time between 6:00 and 11:00 PM. Bring any craft project, and work on it surrounded by friends. Questions? See Ann Sebesan.

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

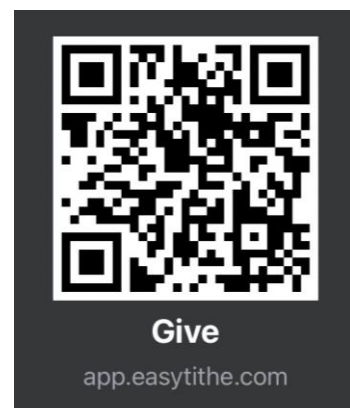
The residents of **Orange County Correctional** are in need of personal hygiene items this Spring. Regular size toothpaste; Arm and Hammer Deodorant, Suave 3 in 1 body wash and shampoo. These can be brought to the OCC basket in the Narthex. They will be picked up and delivered monthly. Thank you for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



THIS SUNDAY: December 14 Advent III

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:47-55;
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!
9:45 AM Joyful Noise Choir (#221)
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)
6:00 PM HPC Choir Concert and Reception

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

Wed – 12:30 PM Knitting Group (Parlor)

Fri - 6:00 PM Finish-It-Friday (Strudwick Hall or #204)

Volunteers:

Liturgist: Will Lang
Children's Sermon: Will Lang
Advent Candles: Sean and Carly Bailey and Family
Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey
Video: Hervey McIver, Joe Crane

NEXT 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

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 Stephensopn, Ben Stephenson