



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
July 18, 2021

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 18, 2021**

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

He Leadeth Me

UMH 128

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence filled with regret for our many sins and failings. Though there is greatness in us, and a deep longing for goodness, we have often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice calling us to rise to the full height of our humanity. For there is weakness in us, as well as strength. At times we choose to walk in darkness, our vision obscured. We do not care to look within, and we are unwilling to look beyond at those who need our help. O God, we are too weak to walk unaided. Be with us as a strong and wise friend, and teach us to walk by the light of your truth.

All offer prayers of confession in silence.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The Lord God is merciful and gracious, endlessly patient, loving, and true, showing mercy to thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and granting pardon. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

- 20 I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
- 21 **my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.**
- 22 The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.
- 23 **I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.**
- 24 My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.
- 25 **I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.**
- 26 He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'
- 27 **I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.**
- 28 Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him,
and my covenant with him will stand firm.
- 29 **I will establish his line forever,
and his throne as long as the heavens endure.**
- 30 If his children forsake my law
and do not walk according to my ordinances,
- 31 **if they violate my statutes
and do not keep my commandments,**
- 32 then I will punish their transgression with the rod
and their iniquity with scourges;
- 33 **but I will not remove from him my steadfast love,
or be false to my faithfulness.**
- 34 I will not violate my covenant,
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.
- 35 **Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness;
I will not lie to David.**
- 36 His line shall continue forever,
and his throne endure before me like the sun.
- 37 **It shall be established forever like the moon,
an enduring witness in the skies."**

- ¹ The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
² For learning about wisdom and instruction,
for understanding words of insight,
³ for gaining instruction in wise dealing,
righteousness, justice, and equity;
⁴ to teach shrewdness to the simple,
knowledge and prudence to the young—
⁵ let the wise also hear and gain in learning,
and the discerning acquire skill,
⁶ to understand a proverb and a figure,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION³

Shine within our hearts, loving Lord, with the true light of your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our minds, that we may comprehend the message of your Word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¹¹ So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth,^[a] called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

NEW TESTAMENT READING (Continued)

¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

CALL: The Word of God for the People of God.

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE TITLE: "We Are One in Christ"

PRAYER OF INVITATION

CLOSING HYMN

Trust and Obey

UMH 467

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

PRAYER REQUESTS

All Military Personnel and All First Responders

Joe Bennett	Radiation Treatments
Janet Bottoms	Friend to Margie Gordy
Ron Fulp	705 Meadowlark Dr., Apt B, King, NC 27021
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Wanda Lingle	Cancer Treatments
Shirley Horton	Friend to Joe and Pat Bennett
Chris	Friend to Keith White
Wanda Manning	
Debbie Weeden	Daughter-in-law to Becky Weeden
Christian Willard and family	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will hold a reception for our new pastor, Craig Toth, on Sunday, July 25, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Breakfast for Supper is held on the first Friday evening of each month, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The next will be August 6.

1. *United Methodist Book of Worship*, p. 459.
2. *Ibid.* p. 478.
3. *The Worship Sourcebook*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, p 143.

WELCOME FROM HICKORY RIDGE

We've been waiting for you! We believe that every person who comes into this special fellowship is sent by God, himself. Above all else, we want to express Christ's love for you with genuine, heartfelt warmth. We are eager to know you, and we are excited to share with you the marvelous ways God is working in our church and in our lives. It will not take long to discover that this is truly a family, rich in the relationships that matter most. Our hearts, our doors, and our minds are open. If you have been thinking, praying, searching for a place to belong, we say to you, "Welcome home!"

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At Hickory Ridge United Methodist Church, our purpose is to communicate God's Word through evangelism, to provide fellowship and community to believers, to educate God's people through discipleship, to demonstrate God's love through service, and to celebrate God's presence in worship.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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