



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
August 29, 2021

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Our heavenly Father, we your humble children invoke your blessing on us. We adore you, whose name is love, whose nature is compassion, whose presence is joy, whose Word is truth, whose Spirit is goodness, whose holiness is beauty, whose will is peace, whose service is perfect freedom, and in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life. Unto you be all honor and all glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* UMH 92

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your lovingkindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All offer prayers of confession in silence.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS²

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. 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

OFFERATORY 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!**

¹ O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

² **Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;**

³ who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

⁴ **in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the LORD;**
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

⁵ who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

² My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;

² for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.

³ Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ So you will find favor and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (Continued)

- ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
⁸ It will be a healing for your flesh
and a refreshment for your body.
⁹ Honor the LORD with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.
¹¹ My child, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
¹² for the LORD reproves the one he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION³

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

NEW TESTAMENT READING (Continued)

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[c] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE TITLE "Pure Religion is This" Pastor Craig

PRAYER OF INVITATION

HYMN *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* UMH 382

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

PRAYER REQUESTS

All Military Personnel and All First Responders

Janet Bottoms

Friend to Margie Gordy

Don Fulp

Brother of Ron Fulp

Ron Fulp

705 Meadowlark Dr., Apt B, King, NC 27021

Cathy Hrestak

Cousin to Joe Bennett

Tim Greer

Brother to Sandy Stomean

Tommy Lawson

Wanda Lingle

Cancer Treatments

Wanda Manring

Debbie Weeden

Daughter-in-law to Becky Weeden

Johnny Ogburn

Brother to Sara Overton

The family of

Brother of Ruby Roseberry

Wayne Montgomery

Christian Willard and

Family

Margie Gordy

Billy Gordy

Swallowing difficulty and other problems

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BREAKFAST FOR SUPPER is held on the first Friday of each month, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Next one is September 3.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL meeting, Tuesday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN are now collecting school supplies for Gibson Elementary School. Please bring in school supply donations until Thursday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. (the next UMW meeting.)

1. *United Methodist Book of Worship*, #462
2. *Ibid.*, #475
3. <https://prayerist.com/prayer/illuminationumc.html>

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

Hickory Ridge United Methodist Church
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www.hickoryridgeumc.org
Office: (336) 767-0380

Craig Toth, Pastor
Mobile: (336) 500-1767
Email: craigtoth@gmail.com
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m.--12:00 noon.

Clara Long, Pianist/Organist