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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
November 21, 2021

**Reign of Christ Sunday  
November 21, 2021**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Holiness is the beauty of God's temple while time shall last.

**People: We worship God in the sanctity and freedom from our sins, which Christ gives us through his life's blood.**

INVOCATION

HYMN

*We Gather Together*

UMH 131

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

**Holy and merciful God,  
in your presence we confess  
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,  
and our offences against you.  
You alone know how often we have sinned  
in wandering from your ways,  
in wasting your gifts,  
in forgetting your love.  
Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
for we are ashamed and sorry  
for all we have done to displease you.  
Forgive our sins,  
and help us to live in your light  
and walk in your ways,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Amen.**

*All offer prayers of confession in silence.*

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS<sup>3</sup>

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!**

PSALTER READING

Psalms 132:1-12

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, remember in David's favor  
all the hardships he endured;
- <sup>2</sup> how he swore to the LORD  
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
- <sup>3</sup> "I will not enter my house  
or get into my bed;
- <sup>4</sup> I will not give sleep to my eyes  
or slumber to my eyelids,
- <sup>5</sup> until I find a place for the LORD,  
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- <sup>6</sup> We heard of it in Ephrathah;  
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
- <sup>7</sup> "Let us go to his dwelling place;  
let us worship at his footstool."
- <sup>8</sup> Rise up, O LORD, and go to your resting place,  
you and the ark of your might.
- <sup>9</sup> Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,  
and let your faithful shout for joy.
- <sup>10</sup> For your servant David's sake  
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD swore to David a sure oath  
from which he will not turn back:  
"One of the sons of your body  
I will set on your throne.
- <sup>12</sup> If your sons keep my covenant  
and my decrees that I shall teach them,  
their sons also, forevermore,  
shall sit on your throne."

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 8:22-36

- <sup>22</sup> The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.
- <sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING (Continued)

- 24 When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.
- 25 Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth—
- 26 when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.
- 27 When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
- 28 when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,
- 29 when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
- 30 then I was beside him, like a master worker;<sup>[e]</sup>  
and I was daily his<sup>[f]</sup> delight,  
rejoicing before him always,
- 31 rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.
- 32 “And now, my children, listen to me:  
happy are those who keep my ways.
- 33 Hear instruction and be wise,  
and do not neglect it.
- 34 Happy is the one who listens to me,  
watching daily at my gates,  
waiting beside my doors.
- 35 For whoever finds me finds life  
and obtains favor from the LORD;
- 36 but those who miss me injure themselves;  
all who hate me love death.”

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION<sup>4</sup>

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.

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,<sup>[a]</sup> or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE      “Strive first for the Kingdom”      Pastor Craig

HYMN              *Rejoice, the Lord is King*              UMH 715

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

## PRAYER REQUESTS

All Military Personnel and All First Responders

Janet Bottoms

Friend to Margie Gordy

Joy Brunk

Sister to Billy Gordy

Don Fulp

Brother of Ron Fulp

Jo Fulp

Sister-in-law to Ron Fulp

David Clayton

Nephew to Billy Gordy

Louise Coley

Tim Greer

Brother to Sandy Stomean

Betsey Harper

Cousin to Becky Montgomery

Rick Lane

Husband of Janice Lane

Scott Lane

Son of Janice Lane

Janice Lane

May need surgery

Tori Lane

Granddaughter to Janice Lane

Wanda Lingle

Cancer Treatments

Alan Martin

Friend of Harold Kincaid

Johnny Ogburn

Brother to Sara Overton

Naomi Robertson

Cousin to Lawson Family

Richard Thomas

Cousin to Lawson Family

Debbie Weeden

Daughter-in-law to Becky Weeden

Christian Willard and  
Family

Nancy Wimpish

Cousins to Lawson Family

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Charge Conference** will be held at New Mount Vernon today at 5:00 p.m., followed by refreshments.

**United Methodist Women** meet Thursday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

1. B. David Hostetter, *Prayers for the Seasons of God's People: Worship Aids for the Revised Common Lectionary Year B*, (Abingdon, 1999), 216.
2. *The Worship Sourcebook*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 90.
3. *United Methodist Book of Worship*, 475.
4. <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

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Clara Long, Pianist/Organist