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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
December 12, 2021

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 12, 2021**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Pastor: A path to our God,

**People: Winding through the ordinary,**

Pastor: Weaving through the busyness,

**People: Overcoming roadblocks and detours.**

Pastor: A way to go home,

**People: Leaving the past in the past,**

Pastor: Moving from darkness and exile,

**People: Coming into the light.**

Pastor: Advent is a path to our God,

**People: A way to come home,**

Pastor: A discovery of God's voice:

**People: Rejoice, rejoice. God is with us!**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE Doug and Diane Raynor

HYMN

*O Worship the King*

UMH 73

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

Lord Christ,  
we confess our willingness to be loved  
but also our reluctance to love.

**We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love  
but also our refusal to forgive.**

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love  
but also our resistance to follow you without question.

**In this Advent time, forgive us our failure  
to respond as we should.**

Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you  
with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon;  
with obedience, as Mary;  
with love, as you have loved us.

**Even so, come, Lord Jesus, Amen.**

*All offer prayers of confession in silence.*

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

May almighty God, who caused light to shine out of darkness,  
shine in our hearts, cleansing us from all our sins, and restoring  
us to the light of the knowledge of God's glory, in the face of  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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!**



- 18 Lying lips conceal hatred,  
and whoever utters slander is a fool.
- 19 When words are many, transgression is not lacking,  
but the prudent are restrained in speech.
- 20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver;  
the mind of the wicked is of little worth.
- 21 The lips of the righteous feed many,  
but fools die for lack of sense.
- 22 The blessing of the LORD makes rich,  
and he adds no sorrow with it.
- 23 Doing wrong is like sport to a fool,  
but wise conduct is pleasure to a person of understanding.
- 24 What the wicked dread will come upon them,  
but the desire of the righteous will be granted.
- 25 When the tempest passes, the wicked are no more,  
but the righteous are established forever.
- 26 Like vinegar to the teeth, and smoke to the eyes,  
so are the lazy to their employers.
- 27 The fear of the LORD prolongs life,  
but the years of the wicked will be short.
- 28 The hope of the righteous ends in gladness,  
but the expectation of the wicked comes to nothing.
- 29 The way of the LORD is a stronghold for the upright,  
but destruction for evildoers.
- 30 The righteous will never be removed,  
but the wicked will not remain in the land.
- 31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,  
but the perverse tongue will be cut off.
- 32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,  
but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

## 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.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 12:2-6

- <sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.
- <sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
- <sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day:  
Give thanks to the LORD,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.
- <sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE                    "A Holy Proclamation"                    Pastor Craig

HYMN            *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*            UMH 196

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

## PRAYER REQUESTS

All Military Personnel and All First Responders

Janet Bottoms Friend to Margie Gordy

Joy Brunk Sister-in-law to Ron Fulp

Louise Coley

The family of Brother to Sandy Stomean

Tim Greer

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

Evelyn Smith Aunt to Dianne Raynor

Richard Thomas Cousin to Lawson Family

Debbie Weeden Daughter-in-law to Becky Weeden

Christian Willard and Family

Nancy Wimpish Cousins to Lawson Family

Mark Winfree Friend to Keith White

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Sunday School** resumes, January 2, 2022, 10-11:00 a.m.

**Christmas Card Post Office** is open this year. There will be a bag in the vestibule for your cards. The cards will be distributed the week before Christmas.

1. *Dr. Derek C. Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, Discipleship Ministries of the UMC*
2. *The Worship Sourcebook*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 442.
3. *United Methodist Book of Worship*, 476.
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