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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
January 30, 2022

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 30, 2022**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

We come to worship today to hear your good news,  
to hear of faith, hope and love  
ringing out from your kingdom.  
We know that doubt, fear and hatred  
can shake even the strongest.  
Shape us into faithful hopeful people,  
fill us with your love that passes all understanding.  
We pray this together in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

INVOCATION

HYMN                      *This is My Father's World*                      UMH 144

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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. 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

Psalm 71:1-6

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.
- <sup>2</sup> In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me and save me.
- <sup>3</sup> Be to me a rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress, to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.
- <sup>4</sup> Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
- <sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
- <sup>6</sup> Upon you I have leaned from my birth;  
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of you.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 13:1-13

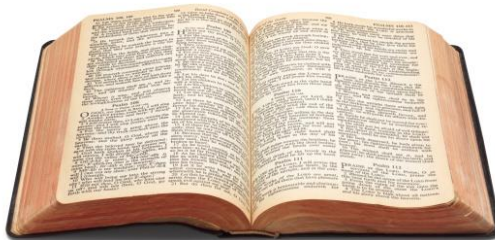
- <sup>1</sup> A wise child loves discipline,  
but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.
- <sup>2</sup> From the fruit of their words good persons eat good things,  
but the desire of the treacherous is for wrongdoing.
- <sup>3</sup> Those who guard their mouths preserve their lives;  
those who open wide their lips come to ruin.
- <sup>4</sup> The appetite of the lazy craves, and gets nothing,  
while the appetite of the diligent is richly supplied.
- <sup>5</sup> The righteous hate falsehood,  
but the wicked act shamefully and disgracefully.
- <sup>6</sup> Righteousness guards one whose way is upright,  
but sin overthrows the wicked.
- <sup>7</sup> Some pretend to be rich, yet have nothing;  
others pretend to be poor, yet have great wealth.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING (Continued)

- <sup>8</sup> Wealth is a ransom for a person's life,  
but the poor get no threats.
- <sup>9</sup> The light of the righteous rejoices,  
but the lamp of the wicked goes out.
- <sup>10</sup> By insolence the heedless make strife,  
but wisdom is with those who take advice.
- <sup>11</sup> Wealth hastily gotten will dwindle,  
but those who gather little by little will increase it.
- <sup>12</sup> Hope deferred makes the heart sick,  
but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.
- <sup>13</sup> Those who despise the word bring destruction on  
themselves, but those who respect the commandment  
will be rewarded.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION<sup>3</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.



**Holy Bible**

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly,<sup>[b]</sup> but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE      “The Most Excellent Way”      Pastor Craig

\*HYMN      *Take My Life and Let It Be*      UMH 399

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

Michelle Barker

Friend to Dianne Raynor

Louise Coley

Walt Frye

Cousin to Pat Bennett

Mr. Grantham

Friend to Sara Overton

Betsey Harper

Cousin to Becky Montgomery

Chuck Hrestak

Cousin to Joe Bennett

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

Snow Family

Friends of Sara Overton

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

The **United Methodist Women** will meet on the second Friday of each month at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be February 11.

The **2022 Planning Session** which was scheduled for January 29 will be held on a future date to be determined.

Our Friday Night Fundraiser will be next Friday, February 4 from 4:30 to 6:30.

1. *Written by Carol Penner and Posted on Leading in Worship. <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship>. Re posted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/01/opening-prayer-faith-hope-and-love.html>.*
2. *United Methodist Book of Worship, 450.*
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

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Clara Long, Pianist/Organist