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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
December 11, 2022

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11, 2022**

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING RESPONSE<sup>1</sup>**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,  
**we trust in the Lord's goodness.**

**We rely on his mercy.**

**We find shelter in his steadfast love.**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,  
**we walk in the Lord's way.**

**We follow his example of love.**

**We keep our covenant promises.**

In this Advent season of waiting,

**Lord, forget our sins.**

**Remember your love.**

**Remember each one of us.**

**Remember your people everywhere.**

In this Advent season of waiting,

**Lord, we wait for your salvation.**

**We wait for your leading.**

**We wait for your coming.**

**LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE**      Margie Gordy & Dot Lawson

**\*HYMN**              *Angels We Have Heard on High*      UMH 238

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—  
Our hearts are filled with joy.

**By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin  
And brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.**

Salvation is your gift to us.

**But we confess that often we try to replace your gift  
with our own efforts.**

**We try to complete what is already perfect;**

**We try to add to what is already full;**

**We try to earn what we already have.**

**Forgive us for our foolishness.**

*All offer prayers of confession in silence.*

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

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him

and will make a path for his steps.

In Christ, God's salvation is at hand,

and righteousness has come.

**Thanks be to God!**

## 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

*Each Sunday we collect loose change that will be given  
to a designated mission. The mission for this month is  
Christmas gifts for children and families in need. Please  
contribute if you feel led.*

## OFFERATORY

### \*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!**



## 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 TEXT

Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus

<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT (Continue)

- <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
- <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.
- <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE                      "Joy of the Redeemed"                      Pastor Craig

\*HYMN                      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                      UMH 230

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

1. *The Worship Sourcebook*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 429.
2. *Ibid.*, 443.
3. *Ibid.*, 446.
4. <https://prayerist.com/prayer/illuminationumc.html>

## PRAYER REQUESTS

All Military Personnel and All First Responders

The people in Ukraine

Iris Bennett	Sister-in-law to Kay Huneycutt
Melissa Brown	Daughter of Maria Rogers
Joy Brunk	Sister to Billy Gordy
David Conrad	Cousin to Harold Kincaid
Delinda Dunlap-Ryan	Friend to Emily Kincaid
Walt Frye	Cousin to Pat Bennett
James Gentry	Friend to Martha Collins
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Roger Jones	Friend to Margie Gordy
Rick Lane	Husband to Janice Lane
Scott Lane	Son to Janice Lane
Janice Lane	Tests on November 29
Wanda Lingle	Cancer Treatments
David Linville	Friend to Harold Kincaid
Kathy Long	Daughter to Clara Long
Freddie Masencup	Friend to Sara Overton
Tappy McMillan	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
The Family of Donna Sims	Friend to Margie Gordy
Jordan Stomean	Granddaughter to Sandy Stomean
Richard and Becky Thomas	Cousin to Lawson Family
Gail Tuttle	Sister to Billy Gordy
Barbara White	1294 Priddy Road, King, NC 27021
Christian Willard and Family	

## Shut-ins

Ron Fulp, 705 Meadowlark Drive, Apt. B, King, NC 27021

Betty Martin, Mallard Ridge, 9420 N NC Hwy 150, Clemmons 27012

Judy Scudder, Bradford Village, 602 Piney Grove Rd, Kernersville 27284

Barbara White, 1294 Priddy Road, King, NC 27021

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Christmas Card Post Office** will be open again this year until December 11. Please send cards to those who usually attend church to the Church post office and they will be delivered December 18.

Join us for **Christmas songs, sugar cake, and hot chocolate** in the Sunday school building, Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m.

## 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 INFORMATION

Hickory Ridge United Methodist Church  
6012 Germanton Road, Winston Salem, NC 27105  
[www.hickoryridgeumc.org](http://www.hickoryridgeumc.org)  
Office: (336) 767-0380

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.

Craig Toth, Pastor  
Mobile: (336) 500-1767  
Email: [craigtoth@gmail.com](mailto:craigtoth@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Clara Long, Pianist/Organist