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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
December 18, 2022

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2022**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

**People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is PEACE.**

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

**People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is HOPE.**

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

**People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is JOY.**

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

**People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is LOVE.**

Leader: There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in the place,

**ALL: And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!**

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE      Harold and Susan Kincaid

\*HYMN

*Away in a Manger*

UMH 217



4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Almighty God, Light of the World,  
you caused light to shine out of darkness  
in the advent of Jesus our Christ;  
you constantly open to us the ways we are to prepare.

**We confess our unwillingness to see the light  
and to walk in your ways.**

**We have not always opened our eyes  
to the needs of others,  
and our feet have wandered  
from the paths of justice and peace.**

**We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us,  
that our hearts be stirred to glorify the nativity  
with acts of compassion and service. Amen.**

*All offer prayers of confession in silence.*

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

Friends, We can rejoice in the Lord!  
With an everlasting covenant sealed by love and mercy,  
God has clothed us with salvation.

God has covered us with righteousness.

The prophets have promised this good news:

In Jesus Christ, our coming Lord, we are forgiven!

**My whole being shall exult in my God.**

**In Jesus Christ we are indeed forgiven.**

**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

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE                    “Emmanuel, God With Us”                    Pastor Craig

\*HYMN                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*                      UMH 234

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE



1. From <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/are-we-there-yet/fourth-sunday-of-advent-year-a>
2. Mary Ann Neevel, *Bread for the Journey*, edited by Ruth Duck (Pilgrim Press, 1981), 21.
3. From Rev. Stephanie Anthony, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Hudson, Wisconsin
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