



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
February 12, 2023

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 12, 2023**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Are you awake? Are you alert?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Are you watching the signs?

Are you interpreting what is happening today?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Do you see opportunities for ministry?

Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God.

Christ has extended the invitation:

let us work together in the reign of God on earth.

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Lord, you said,

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.

Lord, you said,

“You may ask for anything in my name.”

Forgive us when we think we need to solve our own problems.

Lord, you said,

“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety.

Lord, you said,

“If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit.”

Forgive us our barren lives, Lord.

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Lord, you said,

"You must testify, for you have been with me."

We confess, Lord, that we have been too often silent.

Lord, you said,

"Love each other as I have loved you."

In this and in so many other ways,

we confess our failures and shortcomings. Amen.

All offer prayers of confession in silence.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS³

All the prophets testify about Christ

that everyone who believes in him

receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

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 & OFFERATORY

Each Sunday we collect loose change that will be given to a designated mission. The mission for this month is the House of Refuge. Please contribute if you feel led.

***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!

The Glories of God's Law

- ¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD.
- ² Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,
- ³ who also do no wrong
but walk in his ways.
- ⁴ You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- ⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.
- ⁸ I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.



Holy Bible

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION⁴

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 5:21-37

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

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³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE “Why Commandments?” Pastor Craig

*HYMN *Seek Ye First* UMH 405

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

Prayer Focus for February: Ask for answers to the violence that is happening in our communities.

Bible verse to remember: “With GOD all things are possible”
Matthew 19:26

1. Rev. Mindi on her Rev-o-lution blog. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/contemporary-call-proper-27a.html>.
2. The Worship Sourcebook, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 108.
3. Ibid., p. 119.
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
Lane Bennet	Brother to Kay Huneycutt
Melissa Brown	Daughter of Maria Rogers
James Brunk	Friend to Billy and Margie Gordy
Cathy Childress	5703 Beaver Pond Trail, Pfafftown, 27040
David Conrad	Cousin to Harold Kincaid
Fay Dillon	Forsyth Medical Center
Delinda Dunlap-Ryan	Friend to Emily Kincaid
Walt Frye	Cousin to Pat Bennett
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	
Wanda Lingle	Cancer Treatments
David Linville	Friend to Harold Kincaid
Lisha	Granddaughter to Wanda Manning
Clara Long	
Kristy Long	Daughter to Clara Long
Freddie Masencup	Friend to Sara Overton
Tappy McMillan	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
Doug Raynor	Upcoming surgery
Becky Shelton	Sister to Billy Gordy
Jordan Stomean	Granddaughter to Sandy Stomean
Richard and Becky Thomas	Cousin to Lawson Family
Gail Tuttle	Sister to Billy Gordy
Christian Willard and Family	

Shut-ins

Martha Collins, Mallard Ridge, 9420 N NC Hwy 150 , Clemmons 27012
Betty Eddinger, 1250 Arbor Road, Room 720, Winston Salem, 27104
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

Souper Bowl Sunday, TODAY, we will have homemade soup (Vegetable, Chicken, Chili Beans) and cheese sandwiches and dessert in the fellowship hall following Worship service. Donations will be accepted for the Samaritan Soup Kitchen. Come enjoy the lunch and fellowship!

Ash Wednesday Service, with imposition of ashes, will be held Sunday, February 19 during the Morning Worship.

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
Office: (336) 767-0380

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

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

Clara Long, Pianist/Organist