



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
April 16, 2023

**Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Protect us, O God, for in you we take refuge;

**Let us say to God, “You are our Lord;
we have no good apart from you.”**

Today, we come to worship God in truth
and turn away from worshipping the idols all around us.

**God delights in our sincere worship,
but sorrow visits those who give their worship to idols.**

We bless the Lord who gives counsel, who instructs our hearts
in the secret of the night.

**We keep the Lord always before us
so that we shall not be moved from God’s ways.**

Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice,
and our bodies rest secure,

**Because God keeps us from destruction
in this life and the next.**

God shows us the path of life,

And in God’s presence is the fullness of joy forevermore.

And so, we say to God,

“You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you.”

Amen.

*HYMN *Easter People, Raise Your Voices* UMH 304

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Risen Lord Jesus,

what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

When we are so full of ourselves,

it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.

Maybe it’s the way we interpret Scripture

that obscures the signs pointing to you.

(Continued)

Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart
when we don't recognize you in our neighbor,
or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.
Our eyes and ears have become so crammed
with the sights and sounds of living
that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.
**help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders
our awareness of your presence with us.
Fill us with the joy of knowing
your continuing presence,
so that, like the disciples
who first encountered the Resurrected Christ,
we too might hasten to share
this great good news with others.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON³

We know that we were ransomed from futile ways
with the precious blood of Christ...
and have been born anew
through the living and enduring word of God.
In this we recognize God's great love for the world
revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus...
who came into the world not to condemn it
but to save it.
Those who believe in him are not condemned.
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 & 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!

PSALTER READING

Psalm 16 (UMH 748)

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION⁴

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXT

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

(Continued)

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

MESSAGE

“The peace we need”

Pastor Craig

*HYMN

Spirit of Faith, Come Down

UMH 332

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE



Prayer Focus for April: Human Trafficking

Bible verse to remember: Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” Psalm 82:4

1. Adapted from Psalm 16 NRSVUE by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022.
2. Adapted from “Confession: Recognizing Jesus” by Moira Laidlaw, at Liturgies Online. Re-posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/04/easter-3-prayer-of-confession.html>.
3. Ibid.
4. <https://prayerist.com/prayer/illuminationumc>

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	Village Care, 440 Ingram Dr. Ext, King 27021
David Conrad	Cousin to Harold Kincaid
Fay Dillon	6065 Germanton Rd, Winston-Salem 27105
Delinda Dunlap-Ryan	Friend to Emily Kincaid
Walt Frye	Cousin to Pat Bennett
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
The Family of 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
Clara Long	Salemtowne, 190 Moravian Way Drive Winston-Salem, NC 27100
Kristy Long	Daughter to Clara Long
Mary Ann	Friend to Margie Gordy
Traviss Mabe	Cousin to Janice Lane
Freddie Masencup	Friend to Sara Overton
Irene Mayo	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
Tappy McMillan	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
Debbie Miller	Friend to Dianne Raynor
Noah Nieves	Son to Anthony and Brooke Nieves
Carrol Roseberry	2012 Twin Lakes Ct., East Bend, NC 27018
Becky Shelton	Sister to Billy Gordy
Richard and Becky Thomas	Cousin to Lawson Family
Nori Toth	Teenager to Rev. Toth
Christian Willard and Family	
Maxine Wood	Mother to Annette Wood

Shut-ins

Martha Collins, Mallard Ridge, 9420 N NC Hwy 150 , Clemmons 27012
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

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: craigtoth@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 12:00-3:00 p.m.