



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
April 23, 2023

**Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Call on the Lord Who Bends Low to Hear Us

Come! Lift your voices to the Lord who always hears us.

Listen, Lord. Hear our voices sing your praises.

Call on the Lord who bends low to hear us.

Listen, Lord. We lift our voices to you in praise.

Call on the name of the Lord, all people.

Listen, Lord. We call on your wonderful name. For you saved us, you raised us and turned our lives around. Let your name be praised in this congregation.

*HYMN *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* UMH 133

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Gracious God,

When we remember the journey of our faith,
the story that we live with you and one another,
we recall all the ways we have missed the mark.

We have failed to live our Christian story well.

**We have neglected to listen to
and believe the stories of our neighbors.**

We have ignored how we contribute
to the hardships that exist in our community.

We have turned away from the needs of the poor.

We have shied away from the suffering of our neighbors.

We have valued independence
over interdependence and connection.

**In so many ways, big and small, our lives have not
demonstrated our testimony of new life in Christ.**

Time for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON³

Forgive us, we pray, that we, your Easter people, may testify the Good News with our voices and our lives. 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 & 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!



Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness

- ¹ I love the LORD because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
- ² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD,
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”
- ¹² What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?
- ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD;
- ¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
- ¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
- ¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

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.

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

(Continued)

³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

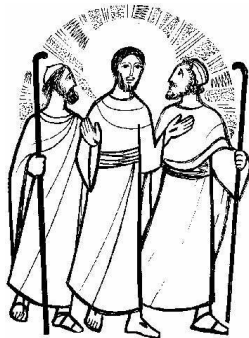
RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE "The power of your testimony" Pastor Craig

*HYMN *Blessed Assurance* UMH 369

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. Written by Kwasi I. Kena, in The Africana Worship Book Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 61.
2. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022.
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
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
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	1905 Emorywood Road, Rural Hall, 27045
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
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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Administrative Council, Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 pm.

Breakfast for Supper Fundraiser, Friday, May 5, 4:30-6:30 pm.

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.