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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
April 30, 2023

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 30, 2023**

**PRE-SERVICE PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Oh God, you are a mighty God!

Nothing is as great as you. You overturn evil.

You hand out justice and blessings.

For you, the impossible is possible.

You can even make those who died live again!

When you brought back Jesus from the dead,  
you did so to show us

just how powerful you are and how much you love us.

**You sent the Good Shepherd to show us**

**How to love one another.**

Send into our lives people who are like angels to keep watch  
over us, to keep us from harming others or being harmed.

**Make us your angels. Make us one people with the entire  
world, united by the blood and love of the Good  
Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH 577

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths,

You lead us in the ways of righteousness,

but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed,  
and at times even hate, to direct our paths.

We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share,  
we have despised others that seem to have it all.

Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways.

Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep,  
and You are our Shepherd.

Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice  
and instead have acted in the ways of the world.

(Continued)

**Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd, we pray. Amen.**

*Time for silent confession.*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>3</sup>**

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The Good Shepherd knows the sheep, and the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep so that the sheep may live. We are part of the flock, we are part of Christ's body. In Christ, we find wholeness and restoration. Go forth and share this Good News. **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!**

## **The Divine Shepherd**

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.



**Holy Bible**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION<sup>4</sup>

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 10:1-10

<sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

“Life more abundantly”

Pastor Craig

\*HYMN

*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought*

UMH 128

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 prayer written by Sherrie Dobbs Johnson, *The Africana Worship Book Year A* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 65.
2. Written by Rev. Mindi on her blog Rev-o-lution. Reposted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/05/easter-4-confession-assurance.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
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
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Loy Kennedy	Heart problems
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.

**UMW Mother & Daughter Banquet**, Thursday, May 11, 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](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: [craigmtoth@gmail.com](mailto:craigmtoth@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 12:00-3:00 p.m.