



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
July 16, 2023

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Come, let us worship God!

Come, let us worship our Creator!

God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love.

God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener's love and grace to transform us into good soil.

God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

**May we nurture and grow God's new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God's creation.
Amen.**

*HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

UMH 428

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

**Loving God, Sower and Reaper of love,
we admit to you that we are like stony fields,
capable of growing goodness and sharing it around,
but also we allow goodness to wither and weeds to flourish.**

Your mercy has taken root in us, but we do not share enough of it with others, your justice has grown on us, but we have inadequately implemented it, your truth has showered on us, but we have let it run to waste, your love has blossomed among us, but we have been slow to set fruit.

(Continued)

Most loving God, please open the furrows of our lives to receive again the seeds of your Gospel. Rain your mercy upon us, shine your warmth and light into every dark place, and bring forth in us not the harvest we deserve but the harvest that in your glorious love you have destined for us. Through Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen!**

Silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS³

Listen, to this Word:

“Where sin abounds, love much more abounds.”

Receive from such abundance and give thanks.

You, my siblings, are among the richest people in the world.

You have the wealth of Christ with you always, even to the end of time. **Thanks be to God. 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 Senior Services Meals on Wheels. 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 119:105-112 (UMH 840)

- ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
- ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.
- ¹⁰⁷ I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
- ¹⁰⁸ Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your ordinances.
- ¹⁰⁹ I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.
- ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.
- ¹¹¹ Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
- ¹¹² I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.



Holy Bible

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

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

(Continued)

³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!”

¹⁸ “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE “The Word that Bears Fruit” Pastor Craig

*HYMN *Wonderful Words of Life* UMH 600

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Focus for July: Law Enforcement Officers

Bible verses to remember: *Matthew 5:9* – Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Titus 3:1,2 – Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.

Copies of the updated Church directory are available in the vestibule.

The church Administrative Council Meeting Minutes are available on the table in the vestibule.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, August 1 at 7 pm.

Breakfast for Supper Fundraiser, Friday, August 4, 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

United Women in Faith will meet Friday, August 11, at 2 pm.

Homecoming Service, Sunday, August 13, 11:15 am., with “Preacher Bob” and guest pianist/musician, followed by a Covered-Dish Luncheon in the fellowship hall.

1. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2023.
2. From <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/the-path-of-the-disciple-imagining-a-new-reality/seventh-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/seventh-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-liturgical-resources> Adapted from Bruce Prewer, “Confession and Assurance,” <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/44SUN15.htm>. Adapted with permission of the author.
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
Joe Bennett	Cancer Treatment
Melissa Brown	Daughter of Maria Rogers
James Brunk	Friend to Billy and Margie Gordy
David Conrad	Cousin to Harold Kincaid
Delinda Dunlap-Ryan	Friend to Emily Kincaid
Susan Harrison	Sister to Sandy Stomean
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Loy Kennedy	Heart problems
Scott Lane	Son to Janice Lane
Janice Lane	
Wanda Lingle	Cancer Treatments
David Linville	Friend to Harold Kincaid
Kristy Long	Daughter to Clara Long
Mary Ann	Friend to Margie Gordy
Freddie Masencup	Friend to Sara Overton
Irene Mayo	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
Tappy McMillan	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
Mary Ruth Neeley	Sister to Margie Gordy
Stephanie	Friend to Dianne Raynor
Richard and Becky Thomas	Cousin to Lawson Family
Angie Toth	Cancer Surgery
Robin Willard	Broken arm and shoulder
Christian Willard and family	

Shut-ins

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

Ron Fulp, Holiday Forsyth Court, 2945 Reynolda Road—Room 142

Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Clara Long, 1905 Emorywood Road, Rural Hall, 27045

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