



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
July 23, 2023

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

Come, let us adore him.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:

Come, let us adore him.

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

Come, let us adore him.

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*HYMN

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Merciful God, You plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun we sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,
forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,
forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,
forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,
forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there,
forgive us.

(Continued)

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.
You search us out and lay your hand upon us.
You know what we are going to say even before we speak.
**So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the
uprooted and rejected,
the lonely and the outcast,
and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in
others, and in the world.**
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS³

God the Creator brings you new life,
forgives and redeems you.
Take hold of this forgiveness,
and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus. **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 139:1-12, 23-24 (UMH 854)

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

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.

²⁴ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' " ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

"Let people live together"

Pastor Craig

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

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 musician, Dr. Marsha Vanderwerff. Followed by a Covered-Dish Luncheon in the fellowship hall.

1. *The Worship Sourcebook*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 53.
2. Written by Moira Laidlaw, Liturgies Online, <https://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>. Re-posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/prayer-of-confession-matthew-1324-30.html>.
3. *The Worship Sourcebook*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 122.
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
Donald and Sylvia Stewart	Friends to Sara Overton
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.