



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
August 20, 2023

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE¹

Merciful God,

In love You created us, and in love,

You sustain us, day after day.

So it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to You,
knowing that You will hear and respond.

We pray for those who are estranged from their spouse or family,
Friends, or neighbors,

who find it difficult to forgive past wrongs done to them;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who for years have carried feelings of guilt or
regret for something they did or something they neglected to do;
who find it difficult to ask for forgiveness or forgive themselves;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who find themselves far away from You,
struggling to overcome their doubts or disillusionment,
and who wonder how to find their way back;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those watching someone they love try to cope
with serious illness or injury, and who long for Your miraculous
intervention;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the many others in our world who are suffering this day—
from grief, or loneliness, hunger, poverty, violence, or illness;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain all those who look to You in hope.

And strengthen us—Your people—

so that we may be love for all those who find themselves alone.

In the name of Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

*HYMN

Standing on the Promises

UMH 374

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Precious Lord, strip away the mask I wear during the week to “get by.” Lay my soul bare before you today. Let me see genuine love. Show me the loves that hates evil and holds onto what is good. Strip away the mask that holds my emotions in check when I should share your love with someone. Let me see the joy of giving to others. Show me the power of blessing those who persecute me. Strip away the mask that grins and lies and lets the world think otherwise about a child of God. Amen.

All offer prayers of confession in silence.

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 Back to School supplies for Gibson Elementary School. 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 Blessedness of Unity

A Song of Ascents.

- ¹ How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
- ² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
- ³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION³

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 15:10-20

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE "Listen to learn and become wise" Pastor Craig

*HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

UMH 557

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Focus for August: Teachers, students, and their families, as the school year is about to begin.

Bible verses to remember: Colossians 3:12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

The United Women in Faith are collecting school supplies for Gibson Elementary School until September 14. There is a "school bus" in the vestibule for donations.

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.

Thank you: We are so grateful for Hickory Ridge UM Church's recent gift to Meals-on-Wheels in the amount of \$50.00. Thank you for your commitment to helping Seniors remain in their homes, living with dignity, and aging with purpose. *Britnee Tellez, Director of Giving and Events, Senior Services.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Breakfast for Supper Fundraiser, Friday, September 1, 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

Administrative Council, Tuesday, September 5, at 7:00 pm.

United Women in Faith, Friday, September 8, at 2:00 pm

1. Adapted from "Prayer of Intercession: Proper 15A," posted at re:Worship blog, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/prayers-of-people-august-14-2011.html>.
2. Written by Kwasi I. Kena, *The Africana Worship Book*, Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 149.
3. <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
Cathy Childress	5703 Beaver Pond Trail, Pfafftown 27040
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Chris and Dawn Jones	Friends to Margie Gordy
Scott Lane	Son to Janice Lane
Janice Lane	
Wanda Lingle	Cancer Treatments
David Linville	Friend to Harold Kincaid
Kristy Long	Daughter to Clara Long
Freddie Masencup	Friend to Sara Overton
Irene Mayo	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
Sharon McGrath	Friend to Margie Gordy
Mary Ruth Neeley	Sister to Margie Gordy
Keith Overton	Treatment
Stephanie	Friend to Dianne Raynor
Donald and Sylvia Stewart	Friends to Sara Overton
Richard and Becky Thomas	Cousin to Lawson Family
Angie Toth	Cancer Treatments
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—Apt. 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.