



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
August 27, 2023

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 27, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Family of God, as we gather today, Jesus asks us,
“Who do you say that I am?”

You are our Messiah, the Son of the living God!

Family of God, as we gather today, the Holy Spirit asks us,
“Who do you say that I am?”

You are our Comforter, Advocate, and Sustainer!

Family of God, as we gather today, God the Father asks us,
“Who do you say that I am?”

You are our Creator, Provider, and Healer!

Family of God, as we gather today, the Triune God asks us,
“Who do you say that I am?”

You are Love that creates, saves, and enfolds us into the family of God! May we be instruments of Love in all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

*HYMN

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

UMH 540

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

**We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost,
and wonder why we cannot find you.**

**We wander the corridors of power,
while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.**

**We sit at the head tables of the world,
while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the
kitchen's backdoor.**

**We applaud those who win the race,
while you are cheering on those in last place.**

**In forgiving us, God of new life,
you would transform our cold hearts
into those melted in service to others.**

(Continued)

**In granting us mercy,
you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored.
In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.**

All offer prayers in silence.

It's not money, but our generosity with it;
it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves;
it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift,
which transforms us into God's children.

It is more than just how we think.

**In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits
are transfigured and made new.**

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 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!

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

- ¹ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side
—let Israel now say—
- ² if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
- ³ then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
- ⁴ then the flood would have swept us away;
the torrent would have gone over us;
- ⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.
- ⁶ Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.
- ⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the hunters;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
- ⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.



Holy Bible

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 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE "The Keys of the Kingdom" Pastor Craig

*HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593

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.

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. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023.
2. Written by Thom Shuman on the blog Lectionary Liturgies at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>. Re-posted at re:Worship, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/act-of-confession-proper-16a.html>.
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
Athelene Fulton	Aunt to Margie Gordy
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.