



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
September 17, 2023

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Children of God, when we face strife, upset,
and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

How many times should I forgive?

When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and
again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

How many times should I forgive?

Until God turns the question around:

“How many times have I forgiven you?”

Seventy times seven.

“How many times have I loved you?”

Seventy times seven.

“How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?”

Seventy times seven.

Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power,
but out of God's, who forgives us that we might be free
to learn to live with one another well.

Amen.

*HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

UMH 327

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

**Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive, and we
struggle to create space for forgiveness to happen. We rush
ourselves to excuse the harmful speech and actions of
others as a way of suppressing instead of honestly naming
the hurt we have experienced. We expect others to pardon
our faults without also attending to our own need to repent.
We demand forgiveness from others instead of recognizing
forgiveness as a gift we give to one another and that we
receive from you.**

(Continued)

We wield forgiveness as a weapon instead of a bridge that brings us back together. Forgive us, we pray, and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another, to set and respect boundaries with one another, and to receive from you the love and wisdom we need to grow as the community of Christ. Amen.

A moment of silent reflection

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 Winston-Salem Rescue Mission. 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!



OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18,
20-21, adapt; Response, Psalm 21:13, adapt. (UMH 135)

Canticle of Moses and Miriam

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord,
saying,

**“I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and its rider the Lord has thrown into the sea.**

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation;

this is my God whom I will praise.

I will exalt my father's God
who is a mighty warrior,
whose name is the Lord.

**Pharaoh's chariots and his host the Lord cast into the sea;
and his chosen officers are sunk in the Red Sea.**

The floods cover them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

**Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.**

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
who is like you, majestic in holiness,
terrible in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

**You stretched out your right hand,
the earth swallowed them.**

In your steadfast love,
you have led the people whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

“You will bring them in,
and plant them on your own mountain,
the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

The Lord will reign for ever and ever.”

Then Miriam, the prophet, the sister of Aaron,
took a timbrel in her hand;
and all the women went out after her with timbrel and dancing,
and Miriam sang to them:

**“Sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and its rider the Lord has thrown into the sea.”**

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

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

"Accountable to God's Will"

Pastor Craig

*HYMN

Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See

UMH 468

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 17, 2023

Prayer Focus for September: People in the community with mental health needs, including thoughts of suicide.

Bible verses to remember: Philippians 4:6,7: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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, Tuesday, October 3, at 7:00 pm.

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

United Women in Faith, Friday, October 13, at 2:00 pm

1. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023.
2. Ibid.
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	Hospital and 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 family	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: craigtoth@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 12:00-3:00 p.m.