



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
September 24, 2023

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who provides!

When the Israelites wandered in the wilderness,
God provided manna and quail.

God provides in unexpected ways.

Jesus tells a story of vineyard workers, some who work all day
and some who work mere hours, yet the generous landowner
paid all of them equally.

God provides in unexpected ways.

God does provide in unexpected ways, yet manna, quail, and
grapes need gathering and harvesting.

**We respond to God's provision by gathering and
harvesting all that God provides.**

Come! Now is the time to worship!

**We come to worship and partner with God who provides
for the long haul!**

*HYMN

O Worship the King

UMH 73

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Lord, many laborers are underpaid.

They have to pay back their debts.

Money lenders are exploiting them.

They are in debt and they are leading a debt-driven life.

**Lord, we confess that we never shared our resources with
these workers and hoarded our money.**

Lord, we believe that you are here to provide daily bread to all
of us. But the masters of this world are not interested in the
bread of their laborers.

(Continued)

Lord, we confess that on many occasions we sided with the masters of this world and accepted their favor.

A moment of silent reflection

Absolution: God of Justice, may you pardon our sins and lead us in the life path of justice, peace, and the grace of God.

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!**



- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
- ³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
- ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,
- ⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- ⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
- ⁸ He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded for a thousand generations,
- ⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
- ¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
- ¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."



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

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE "Live a life that honors Jesus" Pastor Craig

*HYMN *Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast* UMH 339

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

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, April 2023.
2. From *Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020), 267.
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
Robert Cruz family	Friend of Margie Gordy
Athelene Fulton family	Aunt to Margie Gordy
Ray 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.