



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
October 15, 2023

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who invites us.

When the Israelites worshiped the golden calf,
God listened to Moses and chose to correct instead of destroy.

God persistently invites us to return to God.

Jesus tells a story of a wedding banquet where the guests
dismissed the invitation and harmed the messengers,
so the king invited people off the streets and welcomed all who
received the invitation in earnest.

God persistently invites us to return to God.

Too often we turn from God's ways, choosing our stiff-necked
insistence that we know what is best instead of trusting God's
provision, love, and guidance.

**When we turn away and our love fails, God continues to
offer us opportunities to return to God and join in the
celebration of God's abundant love and life.**

Come! Now is the time to worship!

**We come to worship God who keeps inviting us for the long
haul.**

*HYMN *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* UMH 126

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own
way. God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness
to all. Therefore, I invite you to confess all that would separate
you from God or one another. Let us pray.

When we have fashioned idols of our own desire
or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,
Lord, have mercy.

(Continued)

When have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice, or failed to extend the invitation to others,
Christ, have mercy.

When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near,
Lord, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

AASURANCE OF PARDON³

Praise be to God, our sins are forgiven.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Praise 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!

PSALTER READING Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829-830)

¹ Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD
or declare all his praise?

³ Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

⁴ Remember us O LORD, when you show favor to your people;
help us when you deliver them,

⁵ that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that we may glory in your heritage.

⁶ Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

¹⁹ They made a calf at Horeb
and worshiped a cast image.

²⁰ They exchanged the glory of God^[a]
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

²¹ They forgot God, their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,

²² wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

²³ Therefore he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

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

Exodus 32:1-14

¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from
the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him,
“Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this
Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do
not know what has become of him.”

² Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me.”

³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.” ⁶ They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel. ⁷ The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.” ¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.

¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE “If God repents, we can too!” Pastor Craig

*HYMN *Take Time to be Holy* UMH 395

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

Prayer Focus for October: Unity within and among people in churches in our community, so that we might rightly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear.

Bible verses to remember: Ephesians 4:1-6 “. . . walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

Wanted: Someone to learn about the sound system. If you are interested, please contact Joe Bennett.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Breakfast for Supper Fundraiser, Friday, November 3, 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

Northwest Forsyth Missional Network Charge Conference Worship, Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m. at Faith UMC, 1645 Griffin Road, Rural Hall, NC 27045.

Administrative Council, Tuesday, November 7, at 7:00 pm.

United Women in Faith, Friday, November 10, at 2:00 pm.

1. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023.
2. Written by Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, OCC, posted on the United Church of Christ website, https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost_19_october_11/. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/confession-of-sin-proper-23a.html>.
3. Ibid.
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	Hospital and Cancer Treatment
Melissa Brown	Daughter of Maria Rogers
Jenna & Griffin Brawner	Raynor's daughter and son-in-law
James Brunk	In-law of Billy and Margie Gordy
Cathy Childress	5703 Beaver Pond Trail, Pfafftown 27040
Ray Gordy	Brother to Billy Gordy
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Chris Jones	Friend to Margie Gordy
Scott Lane	Son to Janice Lane
Janice Lane	
Wanda Lingle	Cancer Treatments
David Linville	Friend to Harold Kincaid
Kristy Long	Daughter of 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
Tammy Parham	Daughter to Wanda Manring
Carrie Snow	Sister-in-law to Beverly Snow
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	
Wade Willard	Friend of Billy & Margie Gordy

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.