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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
December 10, 2023

**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023**

**PRE-SERVICE PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Come! Listen! A voice cries out: "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

**We come,**

**and we wait in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

Pay attention! God is removing barriers and leveling the playing field, making a way for all people to witness the glory of the Lord.

**We pay attention,**

**and we wait in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

We wait, and we work as God's landscapers, filling in valleys and making rough places a plain, bringing justice where conflicts and obstacles once reigned.

**We wait,**

**and we work in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

As we gather, may we prepare our voices to proclaim and our hands to get messy as our lives declare the coming of our Savior and Comforter.

**We come to worship and to grow in the just peace of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Margie Gordy & Sara Overton

\*HYMN

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

UMH 220



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

*Offer silent prayers of confession.*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **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 will be used for Share the Warmth heating bill assistance.*

### \*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!**

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin. *Selah*
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- <sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- <sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- <sup>11</sup> Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- <sup>12</sup> The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him  
and will make a path for his steps.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION<sup>3</sup>

Living God, help us to hear your Word with open hearts so that we may truly understand; and understanding, that we may believe; and, believing, that we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE TEXT

Isaiah 40:1-11

- <sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.
- <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.
- <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

- <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.
- <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass;  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- <sup>7</sup> The grass withers; the flower fades,  
[[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.
- <sup>8</sup> The grass withers; the flower fades,]]  
but the word of our God will stand forever.
- <sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"
- <sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him  
and his recompense before him.
- <sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms  
and carry them in his bosom  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

"Here is your God!"

Pastor Craig

\*HYMN

*What Child Is This*

UMH 219

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 10, 2023

**Prayer Focus for December:** The homeless and others in need.

**Bible verses to remember: Matthew 25:40**

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Christmas Caroling & Treats**, Sunday, December 17, fellowship hall, during the Sunday School hour, with coffee, hot chocolate and sugar cake.

**Administrative Council**, Tuesday, January 2, at 7:00 pm.

**Planning Session for 2024**, Thursday, January 11, at 2:00 pm.

**United Women in Faith**, Friday, January 12, at 2:00 pm.



1. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.
2. Posted on the Pilgrim Uniting Church website, <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=400>.
3. *The Worship Sourcebook*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, 142.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

All Military Personnel and All First Responders

The people in Ukraine

Joe Bennett	Cancer
Melissa Brown	Daughter of Maria Rogers
James Brunk	In-law of Billy and Margie Gordy
Cathy Childress	5703 Beaver Pond Trail, Pfafftown 27040
Dorothy Frye	Friend to Dianne Raynor
Ray Gordy	Brother to Billy Gordy
Bobby & Shirley Griffin	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Chris Jones	Friend to Margie Gordy
Scott Lane	Son to Janice Lane
Janice Lane	
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
T.J. Moll	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Mary Ruth Neeley	Sister to Margie Gordy
Keith Overton	Treatment
Tammy Parham	Daughter to Wanda Manring
Anne Snow	Mother to Mark Snow
Carrie Snow	Sister-in-law to Beverly Snow
Donald and Sylvia Stewart	Friends to Sara Overton
Richard and Becky Thomas	Cousin to Lawson Family
Rebekah Tate	Friend of Dianne Raynor
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](http://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](mailto:craigmtoth@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 12:00-3:00 p.m.