



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention?

God is doing a new thing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom.

You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

Beloved, listen. God is calling *you*. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community.

To testify to the Light among us.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Harold & Susan Kincaid

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Merciful God,

The stories of your faithfulness abound,
yet we confess that we do not trust
in your provision and care for us.
We go our own way, longing for joy and peace,
but not recognizing our need
for communion with you and our neighbors.

God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.

Offer silent prayers of confession.

Beloved, hear this good news:

God's love never fails, and is always at work
to bring us back to God and one another.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**May God restore us to the joy of our common life
now and always. 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!

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- ³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.
- ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- ⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
- ⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION³

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 61:1-4, 8-11

- ¹ The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
- ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

- ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- ⁸ For I, the LORD, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
- ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE “God’s Goodness is coming!” Pastor Craig

*HYMN *The First Noel* UMH 245

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 17, 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, in the 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. Ibid.
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
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.