



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2023

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

**We wait in the love of the coming Messiah
that transforms us.**

The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker,
Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

**We wait in the love of the coming Messiah
that transforms us.**

With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform
the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where
hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

**We wait in the love of the coming Messiah
that transforms us.**

So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God,
our Savior!

**We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love
that transforms us! Amen.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Doug & Dianne Raynor

*HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

**Forgive us, Mighty God,
and look with grace upon us.
We would live secure in your love;
we would be the ones of peace for our world,
we would seek to do your will,
as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
in whose name we pray.**

Silent is kept.

Even now—yes, even in this very moment,
God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness,
bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.
**May we open our hearts to the God who is with us,
and receive the gifts which have been offered to us.
Thanks be to God. 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 Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
- ¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- ¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

*HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

SCRIPTURE TEXT

Luke 2:1-20

- ¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
- ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.
- ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE “Great joy for all the people” Pastor Craig

*HYMN *Joy to the World* UMH 246

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 24, 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

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. Adapted from prayer written by Thom Shuman and posted on **Lectionary Liturgies**. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/12/confession-luke-1-46-55.html>.

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: craigtoth@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 12:00-3:00 p.m.