



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
December 31, 2023

**First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

We have welcomed the Christ child
and declared the glory of God's salvation
that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

**We watch and work for God's kingdom
on earth as it is in heaven.**

We prepare to welcome a new year,
thankful for how God has brought us through the past year
and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

**We watch and work for God's kingdom
on earth as it is in heaven.**

We join generations of Simeons and Annas
who learned and taught us how to listen, notice,
and discern divine love at work in the world.

**We watch and work for God's kingdom
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Come, let us worship God,
whose love endures from generation to generation,
guiding us from one year to the next.

**Come, let us worship as we live
in anticipation of God's kingdom
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

*HYMN

There's a Song in the Air

UMH 249

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLYAN TRADITION²

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

Let me be full, let me be empty.

(Continued)

**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. 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 is Crisis Control Share
the Warmth.*

***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!**



Praise for God's Universal Glory

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.^[a]

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

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

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

"Children of the King"

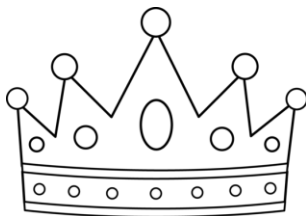
Pastor Craig

*HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 31, 2023

Prayer Focus for December: Peace in the world and in our hearts.

Bible verse to remember: John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

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.

*Happy
New Year!*

1. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.
2. Written by John Wesley, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989), 607.
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
Ron Fulp	Village Care of King, 440 Ingram Drive, King, NC 27021
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

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.