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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
January 21, 2024

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 21, 2024**

**PRE-SERVICE PRAYER**

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

Are you listening? God is doing a new thing! Will you join in?

**Yes! We will follow!**

Listen! Did you miss it? God calls us again to build the kingdom of heaven. Will you join in?

**Yes! We will be builders of the kingdom.**

Wait, did you catch that? Again, God calls us to declare the good news to those in need. Will you join in?

**Yes! We will declare the good news with our voices and our lives.**

And still, God calls. God never quits calling us to live and to give abundant life. Will you join in?

**Yes! We will join with God in sharing the gracious gift of abundant life with the world.**

\*HYMN

*Grace Greater than Our Sin*

UMH 365

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience.

**Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not.**

**We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. Amen.**

*Offer silent prayers of confession.*

*Assurance of pardon.*

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. **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 Open Arms Community, Winston-Salem.*

\*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> For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.
- <sup>2</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.
- <sup>3</sup> How long will you assail a person,  
will you batter your victim, all of you,  
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
- <sup>4</sup> Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.  
They take pleasure in falsehood;  
they bless with their mouths,  
but inwardly they curse. *Selah*
- <sup>5</sup> For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.
- <sup>6</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- <sup>7</sup> On God rests my deliverance and my honor;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
- <sup>8</sup> Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before him;  
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*
- <sup>9</sup> Those of low estate are but a breath;  
those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up;  
they are together lighter than a breath.
- <sup>10</sup> Put no confidence in extortion,  
and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.
- <sup>11</sup> Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God,
- <sup>12</sup> and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.  
For you repay to all  
according to their work.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION<sup>2</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

Mark 1:14-20

### **The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry**

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; <sup>[c]</sup> repent, and believe in the good news.”

### **Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

“The Good News”

Pastor Craig

\*HYMN

*For the Healing of the Nations*

UMH 428

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 21, 2024

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

**Bible verse to remember: John 14:27**

<sup>27</sup> 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, February 5, at 7:00 p.m.

**United Women in Faith**, Friday, February 9, at 2:00 pm. Will have finger foods for Valentines Day.

**“Souper Bowl” Sunday**, February 11, immediately following worship service we will gather in the fellowship hall for chili and soups prepared by church members and grilled cheese sandwiches. Donations will be received for Samaritan Ministries. Join us for good food and fellowship!

1. Adapted from prayer written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2023.
2. Written by Rev. Madison Shockley, as part of a larger liturgy called Reluctant Evangelists: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany, posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways website. Reposted at the re:Worship blog, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/prayer-of-confession-jonah-3.html>.
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 to Billy Gordy
Joy Brunk	Sister to Billy Gordy
Cathy Childress	5703 Beaver Pond Trail, Pfafftown 27040
Ray Dillon	6065 Germanton Road, W-S 27105
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
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
Mary Ruth Neeley	Sister to Margie Gordy
Keith Overton	Treatment
T.J. and Heather Small	Friend to Dianne Raynor
Donald and Sylvia Stewart	Friends to Sara Overton
Rebekah Tate	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Angie Toth	Cancer Treatments
Robin Willard	5026 Gordy Trail, Winston-Salem, 27105
Christian Willard and family	
Wade Willard	Friend to Billy & Margie Gordy

## Shut-ins

Martha Collins, Mallard Ridge, 9420 N NC Hwy 150, Clemmons 27012

Betty Eddinger—Room 720, 1250 Arbor Road, Winston-Salem 27104

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. 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.