



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
January 28, 2024

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 28, 2024**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart in the company of the upright in the congregation.

**Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

The works of God's hands are faithful and just;
all God's precepts are trustworthy.

**They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

God's works extend to you and me and the whole community
as the Spirit nurtures gifts and graces in each of us.

**Great are the works of the Lord,
whose love and grace endures forever!**

God raises up some to be prophets to help us follow God's
voice, yet all are called to lead by following.

**We affirm the gifts of those who are called to be truth-
tellers in our midst, helping us all to answer the call to be
truth-doers. Great are the works of the Lord! Amen.**

*HYMN *Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above* UMH 96

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

**Holy God, hear our prayer. You send prophets and saviors
to help us, to save us, to raise us, and our response is to
question You. You heal someone's beloved, and we ask,
"Why not this one too?" You shower food upon some who
hunger, and we complain that our stomachs are growling.
Forgive us. Forgive us not for our doubts, but for our
limited perspective. Open wide before us the vista of your
grace, and the expanse of your love, and the wonder of
your healing power. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the Good News: At some time, each one of us has been lost in many different ways. But now we are indeed found, and not simply found, but rejoiced over, and cherished, and beloved. Your sins are forgiven; you have come home. **Alleluia! 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!



Praise for God's Wonderful Works

¹ Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION²

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 1:21-28

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

"Teaching with Authority"

Pastor Craig

*HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

UMH 549

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 28, 2024

Prayer Focus for January: 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.

Thank you for your donation to UMCOR, which responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms – sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need. *Roland Fernandes, General Secretary, UMCOR*

Thank you for your donation of \$250.00 to New Hope Church Food Pantry Fund.

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. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2023.
2. Adapted from a prayer written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.
<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>.
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 Gordy
Joy Brunk	Sister of Billy Gordy
Cathy Childress	5703 Beaver Pond Trail, Pfafftown 27040
Ray Dillon	6065 Germanton Road, W-S 27105
Dorothy Frye	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Lee Gordy	Brother of Billy Gordy
Ray Gordy	Brother of Billy Gordy
Bobby & Shirley Griffin	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin of Joe Bennett
Kay Huneycutt	Rehabilitation Hospital, Encompass Health 2475 Hillcrest Center Circle, W-S, 27103
Scott Lane	Son of Janice Lane
Janice Lane	
David Linville	Friend of Harold Kincaid
Kristy Long	Daughter of Clara Long
Freddie Masencup	Friend of Sara Overton
Irene Mayo	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
Mary Ruth Neeley	Sister of Margie Gordy
Keith Overton	Treatment
T.J. and Heather Small	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Donald and Sylvia Stewart	Friends of 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 of 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
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. 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.