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# HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Bulletin  
February 18, 2024

# First Sunday in Lent February 18, 2024

## PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

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

Lenten travelers, when you feel the security of God's love,  
affirmation of God's call, and covered in God's grace...

**God comes near.**

When you feel deserted and alone,  
starving and parched for a caring hand or an encouraging word,  
troubled and uncertain as the ground under you shifts like sand...

**God comes near.**

When you feel emboldened to act, inspired to speak,  
energized to live as bearers of the good news  
that the Kingdom of God is here...

**God comes near.**

In all seasons of our lives,  
God comes near to us and does not forsake us.

**We gather to come near to God whose ever-present love  
remains near no matter where our journey takes us. Amen.**

## LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

Doug & Dianne Raynor

\*HYMN

*This Is My Father's World*

UMH 144

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Jesus says:

"The time is ready, the kingdom of God is at hand,  
repent and believe the Gospel."

**O come, let us return unto our God,  
Who will have mercy and abundantly pardon.**

Let us pray.

**Most holy God,  
we admit to you and each other  
that we are so dazzled by the false gods of this age,  
that we find it hard to recognize who we are,  
where we came from, or where we are going.**

**Please open our hearts that we may know ourselves more clearly, and seek you more diligently.**

Most loving God, arrest the false god's that have diverted us, show us the deceits that have blurred our vision, unmask the poverty of our goals and longings, expose the cheap values that parade as virtues, save us from permitting a rift between Christ and us, and deliver us from cheap guilt and trivial remorse. Please bring us to an honest repentance, the forgiveness of sins, and the renewal of our faith and love. Through Christ Jesus our Savior, **Amen!**

### *Words of Assurance*

Fellow travellers on the road to Easter, always remember that there is much more forgiveness in God than we could ever exhaust. Receive from God, through the grace of Christ, the blessing of sins forgiven and a right relationship restored.

### **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 City with Dwellings.*

### **\*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!**

**Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance**

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup> Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right  
and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup> All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.



## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION<sup>3</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 1:9-15

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

<sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

<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; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

"True repentance"

Pastor Craig

\*HYMN     *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*     UMH 269

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 18, 2024

**Prayer Focus for February:** Love one another.

**Bible verse to remember: John 13:34,35:** “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### **Birthdays in February**

6 Arthur Huneycutt

11 Carrol Rosenberry

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Administrative Council**, Tuesday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m.

**United Women in Faith** meets on the second Friday of each month. The next meeting will be Friday, March 8, at 2:00 p.m.

**Palm Sunday**, March 24. Everyone in the church will be provided a palm for morning worship.

**Good Friday Prayer Chain**, March 29. We will ask people to sign up for 15 minutes or more, from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Sign-up sheet coming soon!

**Easter Sunday**, March 31, will feature the Living Cross in front of the church.

1. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2023.
2. Adapted from a prayer of confession by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Homepage, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-of-confession-for-lent-1-b.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

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
Jimmy Clayton	Nephew of Billy Gordy
Ray Dillon	6065 Germanton Road, W-S 27105
Dorothy Frye	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Ray Gordy	Brother of Billy Gordy
Bobby & Shirley Griffin	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Kay Huneycutt	
Scott Lane	Son of Janice Lane
Bonnie Lane	Sister-in-law of Janice Lane
Janice Lane	
David Linville	Friend of Harold Kincaid
Keith	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Kristy Long	Daughter of Clara Long
Kayla Manring	Friend of Annette Wood
Freddie Masencup	Friend of Sara Overton
Irene Mayo	Sister-in-law of Sara Overton
Mary Ruth Neeley	Sister of Margie Gordy
Keith Overton	Treatment
Alvin & Angie Shelton	Neice & Nephew of Billy Gordy
T.J. and Heather Small	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Stephanie	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Donald and Sylvia Stewart	Friends of Sara Overton
Rebekah Tate	Friend of Dianne Raynor
Angie Toth	Cancer Treatments
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](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.