



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
February 25, 2024

**Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Lenten travelers, who is this Jesus that we follow?

He is the Messiah.

What kind of Messiah is Jesus?

**He is the Messiah who teaches that he will lose his life
and who calls us to lose our lives
in order to save our lives.**

How does it feel to follow a Messiah whose teachings
and call are so hard and uncomfortable?

**Some feel fear and anger, while others feel uncertain and
anxious, and still others feel resolute and ready to follow.**

Lenten travelers, we are not alone in our feelings about
following Jesus as our Messiah. It is a hard road.

The blessing is that we do not travel it alone.

**Thanks be to God that we share this journey with Jesus
and one another as we lose our lives for the sake of the
gospel to save our lives through Jesus, our Messiah.
Amen.**

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY Dot Lawson & Margie Gordy

***HYMN** *Standing on the Promises* UMH 374

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Come let us turn to our God, who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us pray.

**Holy Friend, our God and Savior,
we have talked much about faith
yet have been slow to take its risks,
we have lauded forgiveness
yet have been miserly in giving it,**

(Continued)

**we have praised truth
yet have fudged our own integrity,
we have extolled love
yet have placed conditions on our loving,
we have urged hope for others
yet have ourselves lived like cynics,
we have honored Christ's Cross
yet have avoided our own.**

Most faithful God, please deal with each according to our individual betrayals of the Gospel we espouse. By your Spirit enter the secret caverns of the soul and there expose, judge, counsel, cleanse and reform us. Forgive us repeatedly, we pray, until forgiveness is such a part of us that it may become a way of life as we deal with those around us. In the name of Christ our Redeemer.

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 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!**

- ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- ²⁴ For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me
but heard when I cried to him.
- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
- ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in^[1] the earth bow
down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
- ³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord
- ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.



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

Mark 8:31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

"To follow Jesus"

Pastor Craig

*HYMN

Where He Leads Me

UMH 338

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 25, 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 March

2 Becky Weeden

5 Judy Lawson

19 Jason Lingle

21 Drew Overton

27 Ashleigh Oldson

28 Dorothy Lawson

28 Anthony Nieves

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 to pray 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. Written by Bruce Prewer, posted at <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocB/BLENT2.htm>
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
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
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.