

Welcome to Hope Ridge United Methodist Church
where our mission is to make and mature disciples of
Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

January 24, 2021, Traditional Worship

WELCOME: “We welcome others into a relationship...

PRELUDE
GREETING

Rev. Beth Wilterdink

WORSHIP: so that they can worship God, ...

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Leader: Open our ears

People: to hear your word.

Leader: Open our eyes

People: to see your presence.

Leader: Open our arms

People: to the embrace of community.

Leader: Open our minds

People: to the beauty of truth.

Leader: Open our hearts

People: to the joy of new life.

+ **HYMN** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* UMH 117
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKP_XxCBZDY

+ **OPENING PRAYER**

God of grace and wisdom, You call us out into the mission field to share Your love and grace. However, too often we forget the preparation needed in our own heart and life. Forgive us when we build our foundation on places of sinking sand. Draw us to You today, that we may hear Jesus’ teachings and have our life built on Christ’s teachings and love. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

NURTURE: be nurtured by the Holy Spirit and one another...

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16, 19, 21 (CEB)

MESSAGE *A Question of Motive* Rev. Beth Wilterdink

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Who or what has your heart? Every Sunday, we engage in this ancient practice of giving an offering to God. At one time, it was the sacrifice needed to be drawn back into God’s graces, but that time is over. Today, this is our way to show we recognize God’s grace in our life, and that our hearts overflow for the work of God and we want to be a part of it.

To find the easiest way for you to donate your offerings, please visit hoperidge.com/donate. We give our tithes and offerings not to boast about our generosity, but to boast about God’s generosity toward us.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Bountiful God, You provide us with so many opportunities to follow Jesus’ teaching and to live as modern day disciples. We sometimes respond to Your call with enumerable excuses or unfounded worries. We confuse our spiritual longing with the need for possessions. Yet, these things only provide a false sense of security. As we offer these financial resources, transform us so that we are stirred to hear Your call on our lives. We pray in the name of the Redeeming One, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Gracious God,
we confess before You our complicity in the sins of this world, sins which Jesus felt in his own body and soul. Our hands are not clean.
We confess that we have desired power and status, and have neglected our duty as Your servants. We have allowed ourselves to become preoccupied with things we own or want to own, freely putting on the chains of consumerism. Open our eyes to the way our lifestyles affect and shape the suffering of those here and far away. We confess that we have turned away from the hungry and the homeless in our own cities and towns, thinking that they were someone else’s problem. We fail even in our most intimate relationships with those we love, showing our worst side to those who care for us most. Forgive us for sour faces, for cold shoulders, for clenched fists, and icy stares. Forgive us for the sins we know and remember, and which weigh heavily upon us, as well as the sins which we have forgotten, which meant almost nothing to us, but which have resulted in pain for others. You called us to carry a cross, and yet we complain as soon as the way is hard, forgetting how much we have received, and how little we have sacrificed. Take away our hearts of stone, and give us hearts of flesh, which beat to the rhythm of love, of faith, of hope, and love, always love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE*

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are those who seek the face of God.
Everyone who asks, receives, and the one who seeks, finds.
Blessed are those who ask for forgiveness, for they shall be forgiven.
Blessed are those who repent, for they shall be freed to live fully in the present.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Let us now pray together:
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.

SEND: and be sent out to serve others in Christ’s name.”

+ **CLOSING HYMN** *Be Thou My Vision* UMH 451
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs>

+ **BENEDICTION**

Go forth into the world in the Spirit of Christ, to humbly live and give for the glory of the kingdom of God.

+ **GO FORTH**

+please stand as you are able

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