



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 21, 2024 at 10 AM

Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
500 McKennans Church Road, Wilmington DE
(302) 998-0434; www.rccpc.org

Rooted in Love, Lighting the Way

Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home!

Please visit the welcome cart in the Narthex to learn more about our community.

GATHER

PRELUDE

Marche Royale

CHIMING OF THE HOUR & LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Sara Weimer, *Meeting Ground Executive Director*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, you broke down the barriers when you crept in beside us. In Jesus, your hands touched all, and touched us.

Many: You opened our eyes to see how the hands of the rich were empty, and the hearts of the poor were full.

One: You took what was small - the child's loaves, the widow's mite, a cloud in the sky, and a seed in the ground - and used them to show us the Kingdom.

Many: Here in the company of the neighbor whom we know, and the stranger in our midst, and the self from whom we turn, we ask to love as Jesus loved.

(continued)

One: Make this the place and time, good Lord, when heaven and earth become one, and we in word and flesh know ourselves beloved.

Many: **And now we join our hearts in worship.**

*HYMN 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: **God of our lives, you know us completely.
You see what moves and motivates us.
You know what is written on our hearts.
Forgive us when we work for the wrong things in life.
Forgive us for spending so much time, money, and effort
on things that we think will make us bigger.
Write your humbling word of love and compassion,
of grace and goodness, upon our hearts
that we may live as letters of your love.
Help us to remember that not all of us can do great things,
but we can do small things with great love.
For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

One: Friends, believe the good news.

Many: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Just as I Am, without One Plea

Hymn 442, v. 1

***Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & THE LORD'S PRAYER

At the conclusion, Pre-K through 8th grade children who wish to attend Sunday school may proceed to their classes.

LISTEN

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Just as I Am, without One Plea

Hymn 442, v. 4

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

SCRIPTURE 1 Kings 18:41-45

MUSICAL OFFERING Blessed Assurance

SCRIPTURE James 5:16b-18

SERMON Small Things with Great Love: Olson's Festschrift Dr. Phillips

HYMN 799 **I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry**

RESPOND

CALL TO PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

Many: Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

One: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

We invite you to make an online donation or by placing a check or cash in the collection plate. Envelopes are available in the pews for specified giving. The gray envelopes are for our new Roots & Rays Fund, which goes to creative outreach projects in the community.



MUSICAL OFFERING Shall We Gather at the River

*SUNG RESPONSE Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 821 **My Life Flows On**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Bell Choir, *Music Ministry*

Ray Krout, *Usher Captain*

Sandy Dudley, *Greeter*

Join us for refreshments & fellowship
in Founders Hall following the postlude.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of
Glenn Geshner from Carolyn Geshner Diehl.

Through a series of in-person messages, devotionals, and worship opportunities,
we hope to keep you connected to—and nurtured by—the Red Clay Creek
Presbyterian Church community. Make sure you're signed up for our Thursday
eNews, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. Visit www.rccpc.org.



Red Clay Creek Presbyterian invites you
to its *Signature Services* during the coming year.

JANUARY SERVICE CHALLENGE 2024

A month-long service effort that directs our intention to the needs of our community at the beginning of every year.

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2024

- ◆ Ash Wednesday — February 14th | 12:30PM
- ◆ Palm Sunday — March 24th | 10AM
- ◆ Maundy Thursday — March 28th | 7PM
- ◆ Good Friday — March 29th | 12PM
- ◆ Easter Sunday — March 31st | 10AM

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — April 21st, 2024 | 10AM

Kirk is the Scottish word for church, so a church celebration and blessing of the tartans in our Presbyterian church honors both local and church heritage since it was the Scots who brought the Presbyterian Church to America.

OUTDOOR SERVICE & PICNIC — June 2nd, 2024 | 10AM

Join us in the back meadow for worship and our annual picnic.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY — September 8th, 2024 | 10AM

We mark our return to regular church programming with the start of our fall sermon series and Sunday School kick off.

FALL CELEBRATION SUNDAY — October 27th, 2024 | 10AM

A joyous worship service where we give Bibles to our 3rd graders and dedicate our pledges, followed by outdoor trunk-or-treating and a flag football game.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY — November 17th, 2024 | 10AM

We give thanks for God's many blessings and our rich history of over 300 years.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2024

- ◆ Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 4PM
- ◆ Holy Night Service with Candlelight | 8PM
- ◆ Candlelight & Communion | 11PM

WELCOME TO RED CLAY

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.
Restrooms are available. Just ask!

Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home! Rooted in God's abiding love for all, our church is lighting the way for friendship, compassion, and service. Please join us for coffee hour in Founder's Hall after service, and stop by the welcome cart by the front entrance to learn more about our community. We hope you will worship with us again soon! If you are interested in deepening your participation, or if you just love Red Clay, it's time to think about membership! Contact Elder Nancy James at njames19966@gmail.com.

Children: Nursery care is available from 9:45 am through the conclusion of worship in Room 305 (just down the hallway from the sanctuary). After the Children's Moment, Pre-K - 2nd grade will adjourn to Room 303 and Grades 3-8 will adjourn to Room 202/204.

LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at www.rcpc.org for a calendar of events and for more on the history and other information about our church!



UPCOMING EVENT SPOTLIGHT

On Saturday, January 27, Red Clay will be hosting a concert to benefit Friendship House. World class artists will be featured, including: Rachele Gilmore, Nicole Joseph, Gina Perregrino, Jeffrey Miller, Stephen Powell & Dinyar Vania.

Music will be Broadway, show tunes, and spirituals. Don't miss it! Wine & cheese reception to follow.



Friendship House
A Way Home

RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, *Senior Pastor/Head of Staff*
Rev. Emily Schwenker, *Parish Associate*

Jeffrey Miller, *Director of Music*
Barbara Vanderkaats, *Assistant Director of Choral Music*
Deena Andrews, *Assistant Director of Instrumental Music and Children's Choir Director*
Lisa Nichols, *Bell Choir Director*

Rachele Gilmore, *Director of Community Life*
Ben Andrews, *Director of Christian Formation*
Jamie Russell, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director* ❖ Shelby Beattie, *Sunday School Teacher* ❖ Sofia Martin, *Nursery Support*

Julie Reeder, *Office Coordinator* ❖ Dinyar Vania, *Facilities Manager*
Kelley Norton, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Anthony M. Condoluci-Smith, *Financial Associate*

Charlie Hannagan, *Technology Support*
A. Leonhard, S. Armstrong, K. Barton, A. Bloom, D. Howarth, J. Schubel, P. Worrell, *Livestream Production*

Sandy Sarjeant, *Clerk of Session* ❖ Sue Gleason, *Deacon Moderator*
Geoff and Pam Meyer, *Belong Chairs* ❖ Marcia Kelly, *Nurture Chair*
Linda Reisor, *Reach Chair* ❖ Lois Galinat, *Rejoice Chair*
Brandon Wallace, *Finance Chair* ❖ John Gast, *Personnel Chair*
Mark Cozine, *Home Chair* ❖ Scott McHenry, *Administration Chair*
Anne Ceres, *Community Partners*

A NOTE ON THE LOGO

Our church has "**roots**" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope to be a sign that this kind of community can still exist. We also believe that, in order for that community to exist, we need to stay "rooted" in the Good News that God has chosen to love us - not because of who we are, but because of who God is. We call that grace.

That is where the "**rays**" come in. We hope to extend our love, and the love we know from the graciousness of God, in many ways today. This means engaging in friendships with those that Jesus would have made friends with - those that feel isolated for any number of reasons. We know we will never be perfect at that, but we will try! We are especially aware that churches have long held back from friendship with others based on age, economics, sexuality, race, disability, and the list goes on. We seek to be something different than that. There are so many stories about how Jesus entered into life-affirming friendships with those that others wouldn't. We seek to be like Jesus.

Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder of God's transformative presence.



667 When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I
 3 Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re -
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -

cries: may Je - sus Christ be praised! A -
 find: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or
 sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let
 vine: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be

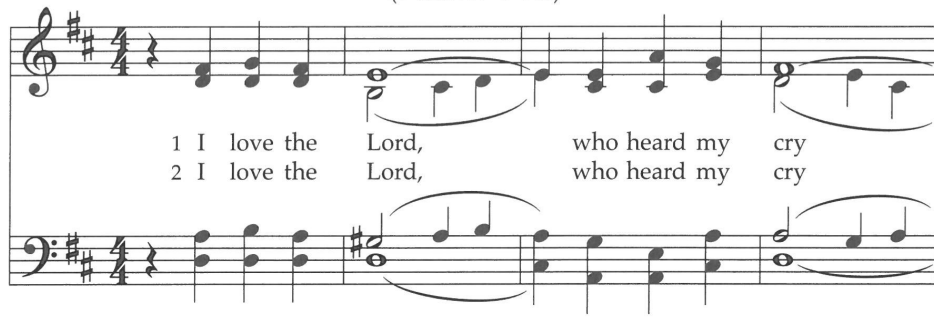
like at work and prayer to Je - sus I re -
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is
 air and sea and sky from depth to height re -
 this the e - ter - nal song through all the a - ges

pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 this: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ply: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

This is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry 799

(Psalm 116)



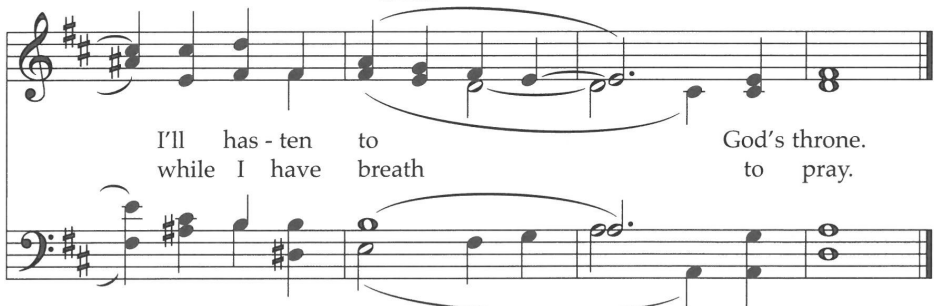
1 I love the Lord, who heard my cry
2 I love the Lord, who heard my cry



and pit - ied ev - ery groan.
and chased my grief a - way.



Long as I live and trou-bles rise,
O let my heart no more de - spair



I'll has - ten to God's throne.
while I have breath to pray.

This setting of stanzas from a metrical psalm draws on an African American singing tradition marked by a slow pace and individual improvisation. Vestiges of that practice appear here in the pattern of extended syllables occurring at regular intervals without regard to meaning.

My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?