

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 11, 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

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!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us bless the Lord
Many: **whose presence dwells in our city and covers the face of the earth.**
One: Come, let us bless the Lord
Many: **in whom we find safety and refuge.**
One: Come, let us bless the Lord
Many: **who offers the needy abundance
and provides the wronged justice.**
One: Come, let us bless the Lord
Many: **who strengthens and sustains us on our sacred journey.**
One: Come, let us bless the Lord
Many: **and worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.**

*HYMN 634

To God Be the Glory

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world.

Many: The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, believe the good news:

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*SUNG RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION *Murphy Paul Clark, son of Brian Daniel Clark & Courtney Keister Clark*

HYMN 482, vs. 1

Baptized in Water

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & BAPTISM

HYMN 482, vss. 2,3

Baptized in Water

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with his rising, freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Many: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

LISTEN

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Glory to God, Whose Goodness...

*World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 13:1-11, Matthew 6:33

SERMON Talk About Saul Dr. Phillips

HYMN 543 God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

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.



*SUNG RESPONSE

We Are An Offering

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives;
they are yours: we are an offering.***

***All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.***

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 748

Go with Us, Lord

(sing twice)

*BENEDICTION



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Lauda, *Music Ministry*

Nancy James, *Usher Captain*

Ellen Hinrichs, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given in memory of Tso-Hsun Lo, loving father
and grandfather, from Pei-Yi, Li-Hwa, Emily & Albert.

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.

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

JANUARY SERVICE CHALLENGE 2025

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

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.rccpc.org for a calendar of events and for more on the history and other information about our church!



UPCOMING EVENT SPOTLIGHT

On Wednesday, February 14th, we will honor this first day of the Lenten Season with liturgy and the imposition of ashes at 12:30 pm with Pastor Emily. After the service, our labyrinth will be available in Founders Hall until 3:30 pm for those who would like to take a thoughtful, prayerful walk using this ancient tool for prayer and meditation. The labyrinth's easy twists and turns provide the inner space for prayer and for listening for God.

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 Vanderkraats, *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.



634

To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!

O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,

and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

543

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Go with Us, Lord

748

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and
ev - ery com - ing day, that in your Spir - it
strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

**May be sung as a canon.*

This very accessible sung prayer was created by the director of children's ministry at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, for use by their children's choir, but it is suitable for people of all ages. The familiar tune makes it easy to learn and to memorize.