



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 18, 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

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

Brooke Sedita & Dr. Brian Galinat

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46

One: God says, "Be still and know that I am God."

Many: "Be still and know that I am."

One: God says, "Be still and know."

Many: "Be still."

One: God simply says, "Be."

Many: Just be.

One: God says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Many: Let us worship God together.

*HYMN 386

Come, Worship God

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(from Richard Rohr)

One: Lord, help us to simplify our lives, purify our hearts, and give us the discernment to know what is essential. Make us aware of your presence, and strengthen our faith, that I may be a living example of your love. Let us pray.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(from Wendell Berry)

Many: Merciful God, all goes back to you, and so I do not desire pride of excess or power, but the contentments made by those who have had little:

One: the fisherman's silence receiving the river's grace, the gardener's musing on rows.

Many: I lack the peace of simple things. I am never wholly in place. I find no peace or grace.

One: We sell the world to buy fire, our way lighted by burning people, and that has bent my mind and made me think of darkness and wish for the dumb life of roots.

Many: This is our confession. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(from Wendell Berry)

One: Since God makes us free, friends: live simply. Every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor.

Many: Love someone who does not deserve it.

One: And know that you are loved by God even when you don't deserve it.


*SUNG RESPONSE

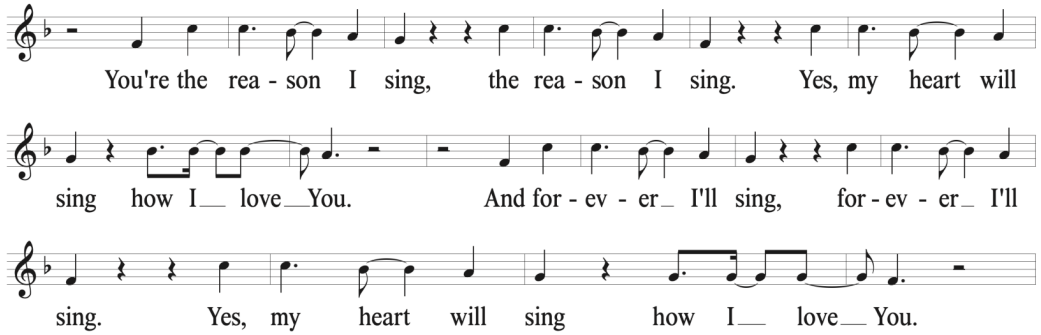
Simplicity

(v.1 & refrain)

 I come in_ sim - pli - ci - ty_ long - ing for pi - e - ty_ to wor - ship

 You in Spi - rit and truth, on - ly You. Lord strip it all a - way_ 'till on - ly

 You re - main. I'm com - ing back to my first love, on - ly You.



You're the rea - son I sing, the rea - son I sing. Yes, my heart will
sing how I love You. And for - ev - er I'll sing, for - ev - er I'll
sing. Yes, my heart will sing how I love You.

***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 Simplicity



You're the rea - son I sing, the rea - son I sing. Yes, my heart will
sing how I love You. And for - ev - er I'll sing, for - ev - er I'll
sing. Yes, my heart will sing how I love You.

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 2:2-3,18-20

SERMON

The Past is Complicated: Cowboy Dan

Dr. Phillips

HYMN 819

Be Still, My Soul

RESPOND

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 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (to alternate tune)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

GRACIOUS INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All are welcome to the table! This morning the congregation is served in procession. Those seated in the pews at the front of the sanctuary begin the procession when directed by ushers. For those unable to process forward, stay seated and a server will bring the sacrament to you. All bread is gluten-free and will be placed into your cupped hand by a server. Empty glasses are placed in the baskets provided near the communion servers.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Many: Eternal God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world. Fill us with your grace and send us out to be signs of your grace and love in all we do. Amen.

*HYMN 441

Hear the Good News of Salvation

*BENEDICTION



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Chancel Choir, *Music Ministry*

Mark Cozine, *Usher Captain*

Karen Beare, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given in honor of Murphy Paul Clark and his baptism on February 11, 2024, and in memory of Murphy's uncle, Tyler Armstrong Keister, from Courtney, Brian, William & August Clark.

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

Throughout the Lenten season, you are invited to participate in a weekly group discussion on The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd. Beginning **THIS WEDNESDAY**, February 21st, and continuing each week through March 20th, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall from 6:00-7:00PM to explore this wonderful book that powerfully reimagines the biblical history we've come to accept. JOIN US!

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.



Come, Worship God

(Psalm 95)

1 Come, wor - ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;
 3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;
 4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;

en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
 you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.
 o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.

You are the rock of your peo - ple's sal - va - tion
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
 Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;
 Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,

to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.
 God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
 great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!
 trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!

Psalm 95, often called *Venite* from its first word in Latin, has long served as an opening canticle in the worship of Western Christianity. John Calvin found here two reasons to praise God: for sustaining the created world and for adopting the church into a gracious relationship.

Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

This meditative text seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17b, "we will be with the Lord forever." Much of the appeal of this hymn comes from its tune, named for the tone poem on which it is based.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Hear the Good News of Salvation 441

Wotanin waste nahon po



1 Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.
2 All the sins I have com - mit - ted, to my Sav - ior now I bring.

1 *Wo - tan - in wa - ste na - hon po, Je - sus he wa - i - hdu - sna:*
2 *Wo - a - hta - ni kin e - ca - mon, hdu - ha Je - sus si - ha en,*



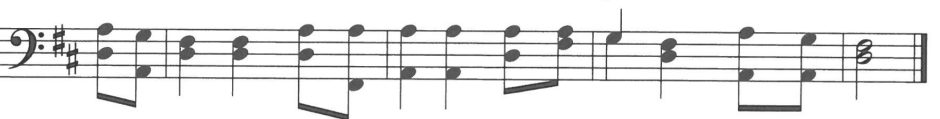
Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove.
I bow down with tears of an - guish; Christ for - gives and so I sing:
to - wa - o - si - da kin tan - ka, he de - han i - yo - ma - hi.
kun i - wa - hpa - mda wa - ce - ya, Je - sus on - ši - ma - da ce.



Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin!
Je - sus Christ wa - ste - wa - da - ka, Je - sus Christ ni - ma - yan: han, wa -



How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.
ste - wa - da - ke a - ma - ton - we is e - ya wa - ste - ma - da.



This text, originally appearing in four stanzas, was written by the first Native American Dakota to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry and was published in the Dakota hymnal he edited. Both the Dakota and English versions have been associated with this shape note tune.