



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10, 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

Mim Krout and Donna Reilly

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dick & Lorraine Gilmore, Ken James

Many: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.

*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 634

To God Be the Glory

*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.

*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 angry people, and that has bent my mind
and made me think of darkness and wish for the simple 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

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

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

Matthew 4:18-22

SERMON

Following Jesus Is Complicated:
Choose Your Own Adventure

Pastor Nate

RESPOND

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

- One: There are different gifts,
Many: But it is the same spirit who gives them.
- One: There are different ways of serving God,
Many: But it is the same Lord who is served.
- One: God works through different people in different ways.
Many: But it is the same God who fulfills these purposes through them all.
- One: Together we are the body of Christ,
Many: And individually members of him.

PRESENTATION OF OFFICERS FOR ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

Deacons: *Antoinette (Toni) Rayfield*
Elders: *Steve (Jay) Armstrong, Brian Conly*

QUESTIONS TO THE OFFICERS & QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, members of the church, accept these Elders and Deacon chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? If so, please answer, "We do."

Do you agree to encourage them, respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church? If so, please answer, "We do."

ACT OF ORDINATION & PRAYER

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

Amazing Grace

*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

*HYMN 837 **What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine**

*BENEDICTION



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Joanne Hench & Jeffrey Miller, *Music Ministry*
Ray Krout, *Usher Captain*
Barbara Sowden, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Kove Hudson from
Bonnie, Jeff, Kristin and grandchildren.

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

Join us on March 24th at 11:30 am for our annual Easter egg hunt. Bring a bag for the hunt and a friend to join in the fun!

Volunteers are needed to help make our event a success.

Please email jamie@rccpc.org if you're willing to lend a helping hand.

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* ❖ Nancy James, *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*

Andrew Bloom, *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.



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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 people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory: great things he has done!

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Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and seek, its and righ - teous - ness,
 you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 *Busca primero el reino de Dios
 y su perfecta justicia,
 que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.
 Alelu, aleluya.*

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
 그의를 구하-면
 이모든것 네게 더하시리라
 알렐-루 알렐루야

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,
lean-ing on Je-sus, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.