

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

May 5, 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

(a silent prayer)

God of Hope, on this and every day, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Let peace fill our hearts, our world and our universe that, together with our brothers and sisters around the world, we might dream together, pray together and work together to build one world of peace and justice for all. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord is risen.

Many: He is risen indeed!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us worship the eternal God,
our Creator and the source of life and love.

**Many: Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one;
true love made manifest.**

One: Let us worship the Holy Spirit,
renewing, inspiring, and dwelling among us.

Many: Here we find hope for tomorrow!

One: To God be all praise, honor, and glory.

Many: Alleluia! Amen!

*Indicates all who are able may stand

*HYMN 1

Holy, Holy, Holy

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: God of hope, God of joy, God of life,
we come to you as a people hungry for good news.
We have been so dead to miracles that
we have missed the hope for tomorrow you have promised us.
We have preoccupied ourselves with small things
and have overlooked the true joy you offer each one of us.
We have been so concerned with making a living
that we miss the new life you have given to us.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Open our eyes and our minds to receive your promises,
and open our hearts and hands to share them freely.
We pray this in the name of Christ, our risen Lord.
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 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

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

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

Acts 27:39-44

MUSICAL OFFERING

Good News

arr. R. Sadin

SERMON

Iron Heart

Pastor Nate

HYMN 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use 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.



MUSICAL OFFERING

For the Beauty of the Earth

*SUNG RESPONSE Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 321 **The Church's One Foundation**

*BENEDICTION



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Festival Choir, *Music Ministry*
Rachele Gilmore, *Soloist*
Nancy James, *Usher Captain*
Karen Beare, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of my husband, Leon L. Thompson,
from Arlene Thompson.

Today's choristers and soloist are brought to you through gifts from
the Naylor and Music Memorial funds.

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.

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

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

SUMMER ARTS CAMP — JULY 15th-19th, 2024 | 9AM-12PM

Kids K-5 will have music, drama, visual arts, snacks, and FUN, culminating with bingo and performance night July 19th, as well as Youth Sunday on July 21st.

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.

HOLY WEEK 2025

- ◆ Maundy Thursday — April 17th | 7PM
- ◆ Good Friday — April 18th | 12PM
- ◆ Easter Sunday — April 20th | 10AM

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — May 18th, 2025 | 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.

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.

Here at Red Clay, we have numerous groups that are open and that welcome newcomers, including, e.g., Quilters, Crafters, "Friends and Fellowship" free luncheon for seniors, Bible study, ROMEOs ("Retired Old Men Eating Out"), Centering Prayer, "The Arcaders" social group for GenX and Millennials, Breakfast & the Bible with Pastor Nate, and Pickleball. Details can be found at www.rccpc.org!

Children: Nursery care is available from 9:45AM 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.

UPCOMING EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Join us for the Disney Sing-Along on Saturday, May 11, 2024 (doors open at 5:30 pm; show is 6:00 pm)! Featuring a live band & raffle, as well as pizza, snacks & drinks for purchase. All proceeds will benefit our service trip to Asheville, NC this July.

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.



1 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Descant

4 Ho - - - ly,

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

ho - - - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Much of the imagery of this hymn comes from Revelation 4:2–11, which its author, an Anglican bishop, knew as a reading appointed for Trinity Sunday. The tune, written specifically for this text, reinforces the Trinitarian theme by strong dependence on the D-major triad.

ho - - - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth,
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.