

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

June 23, 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

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.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ben Andrews, Summer Arts Camp

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

One: Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving. You are greater than we can understand; open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths you have shown to us in Jesus.

Many: **You are more loving than our hearts can respond to; help us to give ourselves to you in worship so that we learn what you want us to be.**

(continued)

One: You are wiser than we can know;
Many: **still our minds as we worship you together.**

*HYMN 410

God Is Calling Through the Whisper

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(based on 1 Corinthians 1)

One: The Apostle Paul writes to the people of the church, appealing that all should be in agreement: Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Admonishing that there should be no divisions: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Advising that all should be united in the same mind and the same purpose: As you wish that people would do to you, do so to them. Let us pray.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based on 1 Corinthians 1)

Many: **Called to be of one mind, we have a wide array of ideas. Called to be united, we are more comfortable with our own kind. Called to be in agreement, still we cherish our right to dissent. Creating God, remind us again that our diversity of body, mind and spirit is a pale reflection of your expansive spirit. Enable us to embrace our diversity, not to divide but rather to draw us closer to you and to one another. Amen.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)

(Hymn 701; sing twice)

***Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

King David

Howells

LISTEN

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

SERMON The Letters: Where Is the Path? Rev. Chelsea Spyles

“The Merton Prayer”

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
—Thomas Merton, from Thoughts on Solitude ©1956

HYMN 834

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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

*SUNG RESPONSE

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

***God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 739

O for a Closer Walk with God

*BENEDICTION

May you love God so much that you love nothing too much, and may
you fear God enough that you fear nothing at all.

*When we think of our love for God, it calls us to let go of the many attachments that
prevent us from truly loving others. When we consider the fear of the Lord, as described in
Proverbs as 'the beginning of wisdom,' let it not be a fear of punishment, but a deep wonder
and reverence for God's protective majesty.*



We welcome Rev. Chelsea Spyres back to our pulpit today!
As most of you know, Rev. Chelsea serves as the Executive Director of
Wilmington Kitchen Collective and as Pastor of Riverfront Ministries.

Thanks to today's worship participants:

Barbara Vanderkraats, *Music Ministry*
Rick Marsey, *Usher Captain*
Shirley Tielleman, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given: in memory of Juo-Chu Chang Lo, loving mother and
grandmother, from Pei-Yi, Li-Hwa, Emily & Albert; and, in honor of Sallie & Jack
Akester's 50th wedding anniversary, who were married at Red Clay on June 22, 1974.

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.

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-treat 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.

OUTDOOR SERVICE & PICNIC — June 1st, 2025 | 10AM

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

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

Movie Night: The Chosen, Season 1

Beginning Wednesday, July 10th, and continuing for 8 weeks, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8:00 pm to watch and discuss the first season of the acclaimed Netflix series, The Chosen. A beautiful and meaningful portrayal of the life and times of Jesus and his disciples, The Chosen adds life and depth to both the familiar and not-so-familiar biblical characters and stories. Snacks will be provided. Bring your own water or soft drink. Everyone is welcome.

RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, *Senior Pastor/Head of Staff*

Rev. Emily Schwenker, *Parish Associate*

Rev. Dr. Philip Jones, *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

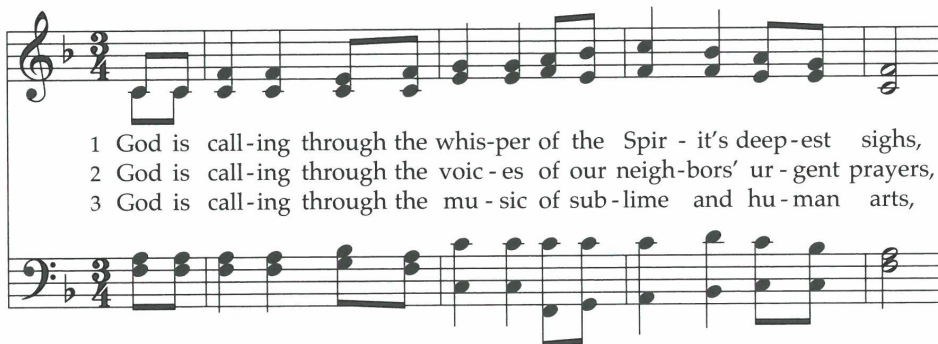
Our church has "**roots**" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope 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.

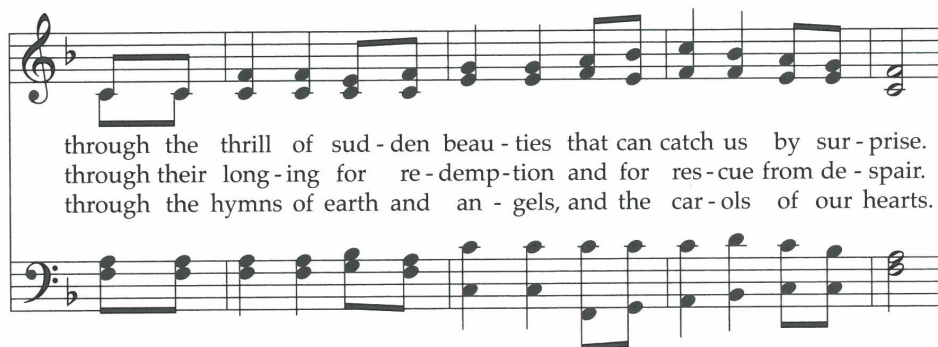
Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder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



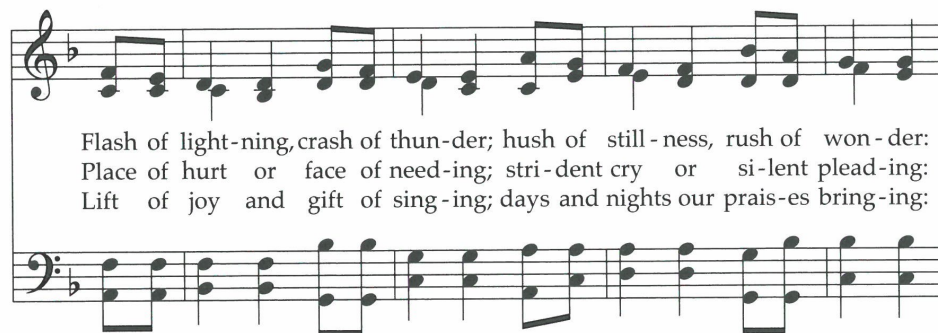
410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic - es of our neigh-bors' ur - gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu - sic of sub - lime and hu - man arts,



through the thrill of sud - den beau - ties that can catch us by sur - prise.
through their long - ing for re - demp - tion and for res - cue from de - spair.
through the hymns of earth and an - gels, and the car - ols of our hearts.



Flash of light - ning, crash of thun - der; hush of still - ness, rush of won - der:
Place of hurt or face of need - ing; stri - dent cry or si - lent plead - ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing - ing; days and nights our prais - es bring - ing:



God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

This black gospel song, like much hymnody, sprang out of the author's deep personal loss (the death of his wife and newborn son), yet it has brought solace to many. He thought his fingers were playing new music, but they unlocked a deep memory of a tune almost a century old.

O for a Closer Walk with God 739

1 O for a clos - er walk with God, a
2 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, sweet
3 The dear - est i - dol I have known, what -
4 So shall my walk be close with God, calm

calm and heaven - ly frame, a light to shine up -
mes - sen - ger of rest! I hate the sins that
e'er that i - dol be, help me to tear it
and se - rene my frame; so pur - er light shall

on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.
from thy throne, and wor - ship on - ly thee.
mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Merely longing for a restored relationship with God is not enough; real repentance requires amendment of life (stanza 3). The similarity of stanzas 1 and 4 suggests both continuity and improvement. This tune was one of the new common tunes in the Scottish Psalter of 1635.