

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

August 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

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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Colossians 1:15-17)

One: Come and worship Christ, the visible image of the invisible God,

Many: the firstborn of creation, the eternal God:

One: the one through whom all things were created, and in whom all things are held together.

Many: This is our God! Let's worship together.

*HYMN 407

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

*Indicates all who are able may stand

*CALL TO CONFESSION

One: The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. (*Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16*) In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: Sovereign God, we confess that although we willingly say that "Jesus is King," we often fail to bow our knees before him. Instead, we grant our allegiances to the relationships and material goods of this world. In your mercy, hear our prayer of confession. Grant us the humility to bow before you, the Ruler of all nations, so that we may be loyal servants in your kingdom. Through your son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Through the crucified body and blood of Christ the King, we have been given a pardon from God. "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (*Colossians 1:13-14*). Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, proclaiming Jesus as Lord of all.

*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.

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 Colossians 1, selected verses

SERMON Colossally Cosmic Conversations Rev. Barbara Price-Martin

HYMN 518 **Your Only Son (Lamb of God)**

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 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

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; please take a piece from the offered tray. Empty glasses are placed in the bowls provided near the communion servers.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Many: Nourishing God, we thank you for inviting us to your table where all are welcome, and for satisfying our hunger with the bread of life, and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. As you have filled our lives with love and hope, send us out to be a source of your love and hope for others who hunger and thirst for your good news. Amen.

*HYMN 526 **Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

*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 warmly welcome Rev. Barbara Price-Martin to our pulpit today.

The Rev. Barbara Price-Martin is an ordained minister in the PCUSA and a pastoral counselor in private practice in North Wilmington. She has been connected to RCCPC in different ways throughout the years, having led a grief support group some years back. She and her husband Brad Martin have just retired from being co-pastors at Trinity Presbyterian Church for the past 33 years.

Thanks to today's worship participants:

Summer Choir, *Music Ministry*
Lois Galinat, Bob Emmons, *Usher Captains*
Jack & Sallie Akester, *Greeters*

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

The flowers today are given in loving memory of my parents,
Charles & Kathryn Gruber, from Chip Gruber.

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.

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.

SUMMER ARTS CAMP — JULY 14th-18th, 2025 | 9AM-12PM

Kids K-5 will have music, drama, visual arts, snacks, and FUN, culminating with bingo and performance night July 18th, as well as Youth Sunday on July 20th.

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

Sunday, August 18 Noonday Concert at 11:30 am!

Join us in the sanctuary for this free concert featuring Rachele Gilmore, soprano, Gina Perregrino, mezzo soprano, Ben Andrews, percussionist, & Jeffrey Miller, pianist. Rachele and Gina will sing a program of songs and duets; and Ben will play a beautiful marimba solo.

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

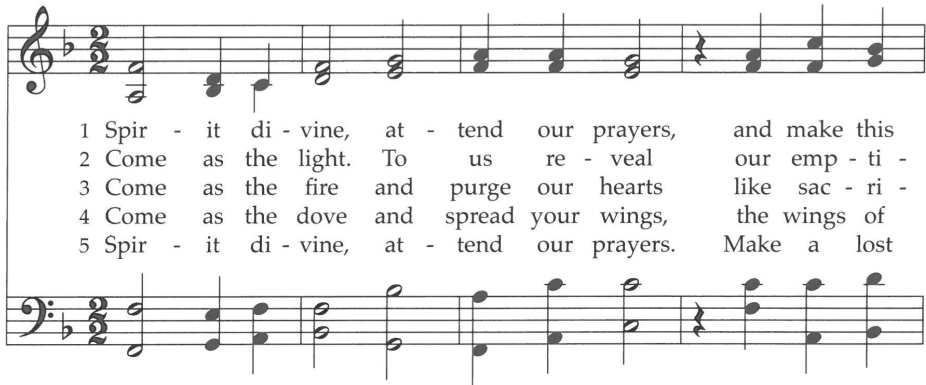
Our church has "**roots**" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope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



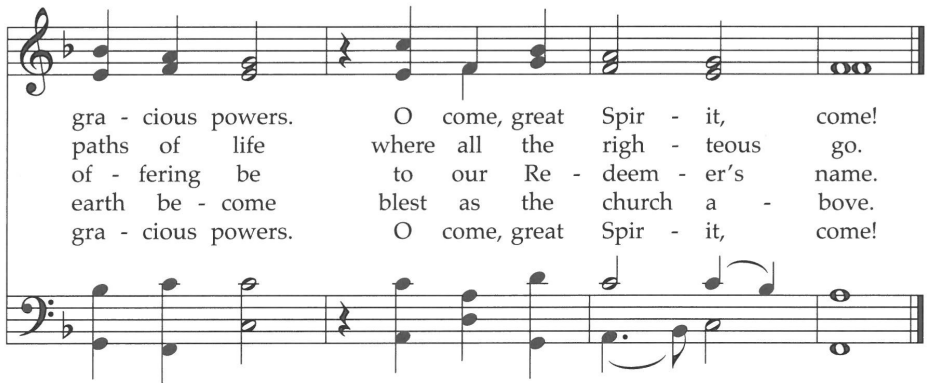
Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers 407



1 Spir - it di - vine, at - tend our prayers, and make this
2 Come as the light. To us re - veal our emp - ti -
3 Come as the fire and purge our hearts like sac - ri -
4 Come as the dove and spread your wings, the wings of
5 Spir - it di - vine, at - tend our prayers. Make a lost



house your home. De - scend with all your
ness and woe. And lead us in those
fi - cial flame. Let our whole soul an
peace - ful love. And let the church on
world your home. De - scend with all your



gra - cious powers. O come, great Spir - it, come!
paths of life where all the righ - teous go.
of - fering be to our Re - deem - er's name.
earth be - come blest as the church a - bove.
gra - cious powers. O come, great Spir - it, come!

The subtle changes between the first and last stanzas here are important; they reveal how the gift of the Holy Spirit transforms and widens our concern from ourselves to the world around us. The tune is named for the text it first set, "Now let all thank and bring honor."

Your Only Son

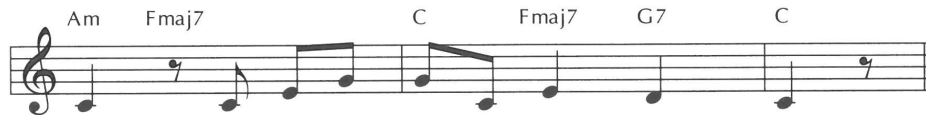
Lamb of God



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love, we cru - ci - fied; we laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died; the hum - ble King we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the



ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre - cious



blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Maracas and other rhythm instruments may be used. 

This “communion calypso” (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.