

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 13, 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

Meeting Ground

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God surrounded by glory:

Many: You notice the people that we walk past.

One: Jesus, healer of the hopeless:

Many: In you, we find ourselves sitting side by side at your table.

One: Spirit of Compassion:

Many: Sow love in our hearts,

(continued)

One: that the poor might find in us a friend;
Many: Sow peace in our spirits,
One: That the angry might find in us a sea of hope;
Many: Sow generosity in our hand,
One: That the hungry might find in us their daily bread.
Many: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 619 **Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Friends, we are invited to God's dinner party, where all are welcome and the table is never full. Yet we confess that we often keep the invitation to ourselves, forgetting that God's grace is meant to be shared. Let us come to this moment of confession, knowing that at God's table, there is always room for mercy, forgiveness, and renewal. Let us bring our hearts honestly before the Host who invites us in love.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: God of love and mercy, we confess that too often we have kept your invitation to the table for ourselves. We have excluded others, and denied them their place. Forgive us for the times when we have hoarded your grace, when we have failed to see that your table is open for all.

One: We confess that we have come to your table seeking our own satisfaction, instead of seeking communion with you and one another. Forgive us for the times we have been divided by pride, when we have ignored the needs of our neighbors.

Many: Gather us in, Lord, reconcile us to one another, and renew our hearts, that we might truly reflect your love in the world, and come together as one family at your feast of grace. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: The Host of the heavenly banquet is always ready to welcome us back, no matter how many times we've stayed away or kept others from the feast. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are invited once again to join the party. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry

**I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.
I love the Lord, who heard my cry and chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.**

*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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 22:1-14

SERMON Dinner Party: Getting Ready for the Party
The Rev. Neta Lindsay Pringle

HYMN 721 **Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore**
(congregation sings verses 1,4; soloist will sing verses 2,3)

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

O Lord Most Holy

*SUNG RESPONSE

We Are An Offering

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives;
they are yours: we are an offering.***

***All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 318

In Christ There Is No East or West

*BENEDICTION



Thanks to today's worship participants:

José Sacin and Barbara Vanderkraats, *Music Ministry*

Chip Gruber, *Usher Captain*

Jim Murray, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given in memory of Shu-Shin Tseng, loving mother and grandmother, from Li-Hwa, Pei-Yi, Emily and Albert.

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.

FALL CELEBRATION SUNDAY — October 27th, 2024 | 10AM

A joyous worship service where we give Bibles to our 3rd graders, followed by outdoor trunk-or-treat and a flag football game.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR OUR NATION — November 3rd, 2024 | 11:30AM

Join us for a special prayer service on the Sunday before the election, as we come together to seek wisdom, peace, and unity for our nation.

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

ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE 2025

A month-long service effort beginning in January of each year, that directs our intention to the needs of our community.

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

Attic Treasures Donations

We will be accepting donations of new or used items (no TVs or large furniture) for our Attic Treasures sale beginning **TODAY**, Sunday, October 13th. Please bring your treasures to Founders Hall anytime from:

- Sunday, Oct. 13th, 11:30 am-5 pm
- Monday/Tuesday/Wed., Oct. 14-16th, 9 am-5 pm

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*

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*

Barbara Vanderkraats, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

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* ❖ Marcia Kelly, *Memory Garden Chair*

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.



Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore-bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

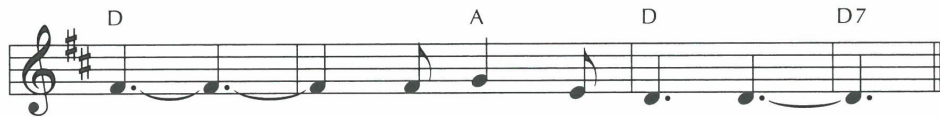
Tú has venido a la orilla



1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore look - ing
 2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat
 3 You need my hands, full of car - ing, through my
 4 You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er



nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones; you on - ly
 car - ries no gold and no weap - ons; you will
 la - bors to give oth - ers rest and con - stant
 longed for by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing



asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
 find there my nets and la - bor.
 love that keeps on lov - ing.
 friend, as thus you call me:

Refrain / Estribillo



O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while
Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos, son - ri -



smil - ing have spo - ken my name; now my
en - do has di - cho mi nom - bre, en la a -

This is one of the most popular songs to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious song in Spain. It asks singers to become like the fishermen who left boats and nets to follow Jesus, first as disciples learning his way of love, then as apostles carrying that love to others.

boat's left on the shore-line be - hind me. By your
 re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca, jun - to a

side I will seek oth - er seas.
 ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.

SPANISH

- 1 Tú has venido a la orilla,
 no has buscado ni a sabios, ni a ricos,
 tan sólo quieres que yo te siga. Estribillo
- 2 Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:
 en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas,
 tan solo redes y mi trabajo. Estribillo
- 3 Tú necesitas mis manos,
 mi cansancio que a otros descansa,
 amor que quiera seguir amando. Estribillo
- 4 Tú, pescador de otros lagos,
 ansia eterna de almas que esperan,
 amigo bueno, que así me llamas. Estribillo

In Christ There Is No East or West 318

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in

him no south or north, but one great fel - low -
high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the
him meet south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.