



# CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 at 4 PM

Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church  
500 McKennans Church Road, Wilmington DE  
(302) 998-0434; [www.rccpc.org](http://www.rccpc.org)



*Rooted in Love, Lighting the Way*  
*Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home!*

**Please silence your cell phones.**

# GATHER

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL CAROL      **Little Drummer Boy**

*Our children lead us into worship dressed as the animals of the Nativity, walking alongside live animals to celebrate the birth of Christ. Watch as the story comes to life with wonder and joy!*

*Come, they told me, pa rum pum pum pum  
A newborn King to see, pa rum pum pum pum  
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum. When we come.*

*Little baby, pa rum pum pum pum  
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum  
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give a King, pa rum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum on my drum?*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One:      The four candles of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

**Many:      Hope is:**

One:      Trusting that there is light, even in the dark.

**Many:      Peace is:**

One:      The wolf lying down with the lamb.

**Many:      Joy is:**

One:      Contagious sounds of Alleluia.

**Many:      Love is:**

One:      Unquenchable, never-ending, born in a manger, here today.

**Many:      Christmas is:**

One:      A love song to the world; the light that shines in the darkness.

**Many:      Let us make a joyful noise! Let us worship God.**

\*CAROL

### Little Drummer Boy

*Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum, Me and my drum  
Me and my drum, Me and my drum, Me and my drum.*

## THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TOLD

*We give thanks for everyone participating in our pageant this afternoon! If your child would like to participate and has not received a costume, please have them come to the back of the Hall. Cues in the bulletin will show when they should come to the manger.*

### PART I: MARY AND JOSEPH

*(Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus come to the manger as the congregation sings.)*

CAROL

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

### PART II: ANIMALS

*(Sheep, cows and other animals come to the manger as the congregation sings.)*

CAROL

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you.*

PART III: ANGELS

*(Angels come to the manger as the congregation sings.)*

CAROL

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

PART IV: SHEPHERDS

*(Shepherds come to the manger as the congregation sings.)*

CAROL

**Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

PART V: WISE PERSONS AND STAR

*(Wise persons and the Star come to the manger as the congregation sings.)*

CAROL

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

PART VI: CONCLUSION

CAROL

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”*

MUSICAL OFFERING

Do You Hear What I Hear?

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

CHERISH THE ADVENT: Monologues

Mary Magdalene (*Mark 16:9-11*)—Candle of Hope

The Innkeeper (*Luke 2:7*)—Candle of Peace

Queen Esther (*Esther 5:1-14, Hebrews 4:14-16*)—Candle of Joy

Luke (*Luke 15:1-10, Isaiah 53:6*)—Candle of Love

Youth (*Matthew 14:12-21, 1 Samuel 17:17-19*)—Candle of Faith

# RESPOND

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

*This Christmas Eve, all cash offerings put in the plate will go directly to the Roots & Rays Fund, which will support our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. RAH sends out millions of meals every year to children in food insecure countries around the world. We hope you will give generously tonight and consider joining us for the event after worship on February 2.*



## MUSICAL OFFERING

Hope Has Come (Behold Him)

## A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: At Christmas time we celebrate how God came. And when God did that, a lot of sounds were made. The sheep in the manger said,

**Many: "Baaa..."**

One: The cows in the field said,

**Many: "Moo..."**

One: The horses in the stalls said,

**Many: "Neigh..."**

One: The angels in the sky said,

**Many: "Glory in the highest heaven."**

One: The wise men and the shepherds...

**Many: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## \*CAROL

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

\*BENEDICTION



A very special thank you to Hannimal Farm's Mobile Barnyard (Elkton, MD) for sharing their furry and fuzzy friends with us today! The petting zoo will be available until 5:30 pm for your enjoyment.

Thanks to this afternoon's worship participants:

Martin Hargrove, *Soloist*  
Children's Choir, *Music Ministry*  
Rick Marsey, *Usher Captain*

Bill Ciabattoni, Marcia Kelly, Vicki Smith, Ava Vordemberge, Nick Waller, *Monologists*

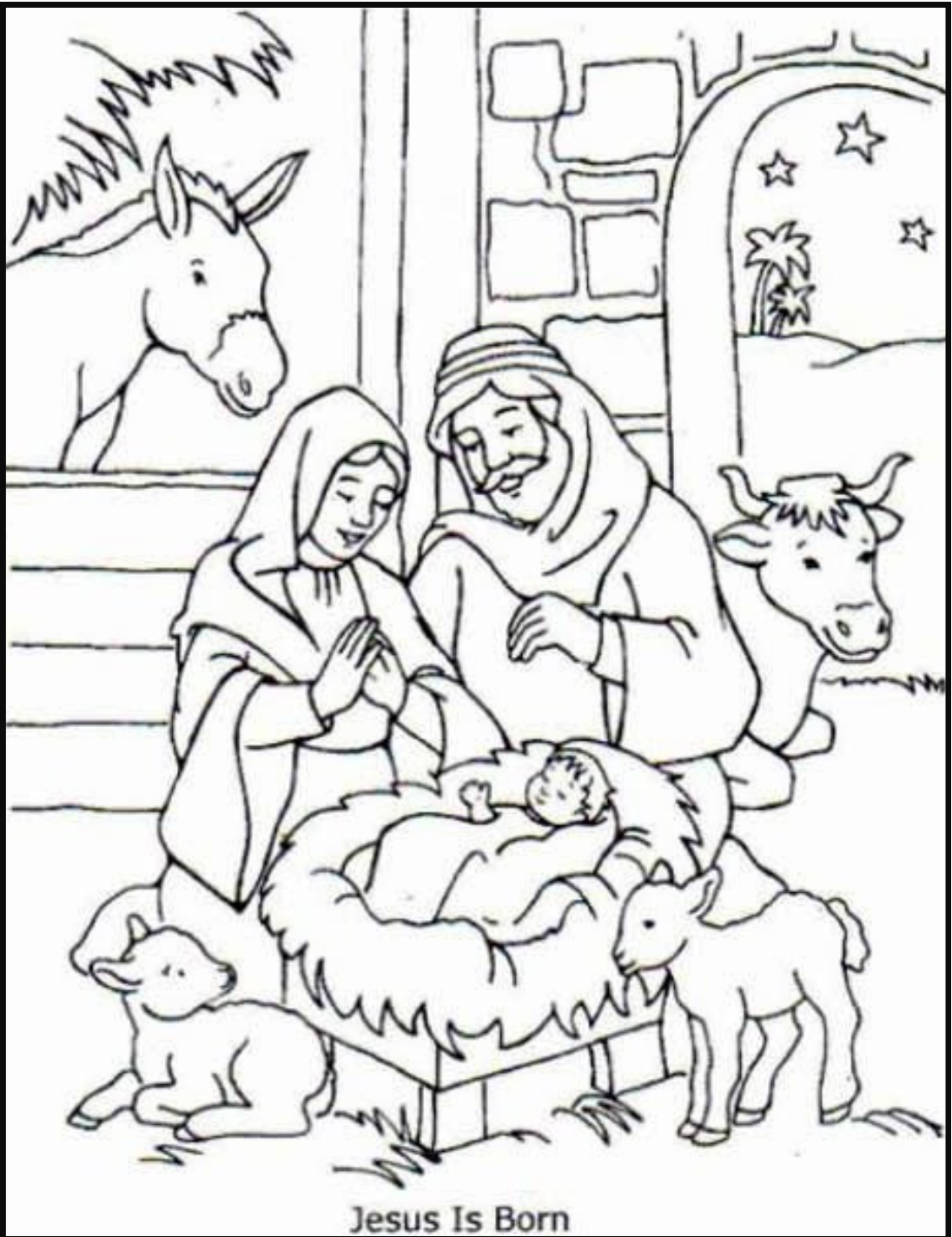
Today's soloist is brought to you through  
gifts from the Naylor and Music Memorial funds.

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](http://www.rccpc.org).

To learn more, check out the church website at [www.rccpc.org](http://www.rccpc.org) for a calendar of events and for more on the history and other information about our church!







Jesus Is Born



Red Clay Creek Presbyterian invites you  
to its *Signature Services* during the coming year.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup> | 7PM**
- ◆ **Good Friday — April 18<sup>th</sup> | 12PM**
- ◆ **Easter Sunday — April 20<sup>th</sup> | 10AM**

### **KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — May 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 | 10AM**

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

### **SUMMER ARTS CAMP — JULY 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 9AM-12PM**

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

### **HOMECOMING SUNDAY — September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 10AM**

We give thanks for God's many blessings and our rich history of over 300 years.

# 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. We hope you will worship with us again soon at one of our Sunday morning 10 AM services! 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](mailto: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, Theology 101 with Pastor Nate, and Pickleball. Details can be found at [www.rcpc.org](http://www.rcpc.org)!

Children: Nursery care is available on Sunday mornings 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 for Sunday School.

## UPCOMING EVENT SPOTLIGHT

**December 30<sup>th</sup> GLOW DANCE!!!**

**5:00 - 7:00 PM in Founders Hall**

Everyone is welcome at this family-friendly event. We'll turn on the blacklights and turn up the music to dance the evening away. Florescent clothing is encouraged.

## 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.





## Please join us in January for our 3rd annual *Roots & Rays Service Challenge!*

We are thrilled our Roots & Rays Service Challenge will begin Sunday, January 12. Started in 2023, our annual Service Challenge takes place the first month of every year and is dedicated to serving and responding to the many needs of our community with love and compassion. Our theme this year is "Count your Blessings."

### *Highlights include:*

**January 12-** Friendship House Day- Lunch Bag Assembly & Coat Drive

**January 19-** Blood Drive & Book Club with Pastor Nate

**January 20-** MLK Youth Service Day

**January 26-** Cookie Delivery Project

**February 2-** Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event

We hope that you will join us and serve in anyway you can, no matter how big or small!

For details on all service events and how to  
sign up visit: [www.rccpc.org/serve](http://www.rccpc.org/serve)

