



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 McKennans Church Road
Wilmington DE
(302) 998-0434 / rccpc.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025 / 10 AM

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.

Please silence your cell phones.

GATHER

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE (a silent prayer; by Howard Thurman)

When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone. When the kings and princes are home. When the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost; to heal the broken; to feed the hungry; to release the prisoner; to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among others; to make music in the heart. Amen.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ben Andrews

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who are blessed by God's grace! Let us gather to give thanks and share His love.

Many: We come, remembering the ways God has blessed us, naming them one by one.

(continued)

One: God calls us to serve, to love, and to shine as a blessing in the world.
Many: **Let us worship God, counting our blessings and lifting our hearts in praise!**

*HYMN MEDLEY 614/616

Great Are You, Lord (2x)/ Our God Is an Awesome God (3x)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Lord Jesus Christ, we remember with gratitude those people who have blessed the our lives.

(silence is kept).

We recognize how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

Many: **We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in blessing the lives of others; the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours; the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement; the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised. Amen.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Goodness of God

*All my life You have been faithful; all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Psalm 32)

One: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is covered.

Many: **They are happy, for the Lord declares them "not guilty" and there is no deception in their hearts.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Promises (by Maverick City Music)

Children's Choir

At the conclusion, we look forward to welcoming all children through 8th grade to the nursery or their Sunday school classes, as the congregation prepares to hear the sermon.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Count Your Blessings

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.*

BLESS

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

*Reflect on the abundance of blessings in your life by writing them on the provided materials.
Engage in gratitude actively!*

MUSICAL OFFERING If With All Your Hearts (from ELIJAH) Mendelssohn

COMMUNAL BLESSING: BLESSED BY SMALL THINGS

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 Roots & Rays Fund, which goes to creative outreach projects in the community.



MUSICAL OFFERING Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth
(from ELIJAH) Mendelssohn

“And it came to pass, as they still went on and talked, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, which parted them asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into Heaven.” 2 Kings 2:11-12.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE We Lift Our Voices (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 **Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!**

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain

**This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (refrain)**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching
and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (refrain)**

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Kings 19:11-13; 2 Kings 2:1-12

SERMON

The Trick Play

Rev. Dr. Phillips

SEND

*HYMN 410 **God Is Calling Through the Whisper**

*BENEDICTION

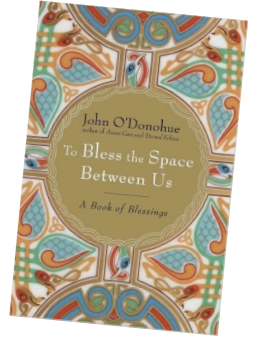
POSTLUDE

Fly Eagles Fly

**Fly, Eagles fly! On the road to victory!
Fight, Eagles fight! Score a touchdown 1, 2, 3!
Hit 'em low, hit 'em high, and watch our Eagles fly!
Fly, Eagles fly! On the road to victory!
E-A-G-L-E-S! Eagles!**



Born January 1st, 1956, in western Ireland, John O'Donohue loved the land of his birth and its Celtic roots. A deeply spiritual man, O'Donohue was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1979, and went on to become a poet, author, activist, philosopher and speaker. His friends describe him as larger than life with a gift for friendship. John O'Donohue died suddenly just two days after his 52nd birthday. One of his books, *To Bless the Space Between Us*, is the inspiration for our sermon series and the source for the blessings used in today's worship service.



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Dinyar Vania, *Music Ministry*
Bob Emmons, *Usher Captain*
Jim Murray, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given in loving memory of John & Patricia Sarjeant,
from Joe & Sandy Sarjeant.

Additional flowers today are in celebration of yesterday's marriage of Maddie Carlson and Andrew Bloom. Congratulations to this beloved couple in our church family!

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.

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.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY — September 7th, 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 26th, 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 16th, 2025 | 10AM

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

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2025

- ◆ **Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 4PM**
- ◆ **Holy Night Service with Candlelight | 8PM**
- ◆ **Candlelight & Communion | 11PM**

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, Theology 101 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

**Christian Faith & Art Class "He Had a Face":
February 16 & 23 at 8:30 AM**

Join Pastor Phil Jones in Fellowship Hall as he leads a 2-week exploration into faith in Jesus Christ as expressed in art around the world and down through the ages. To help us look at each artistic portrayal of Jesus, we'll be joined by Danielle Battaglia & Carol Griffin, Art Educators from the DE Art Museum. Some of the art we will be studying is from the collections at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. This class promises to be an engaging conversation of both what we believe about Jesus, and the intriguing way artists have expressed that faith for over 2,000 years.

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, *Director of Children's Choir*

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.



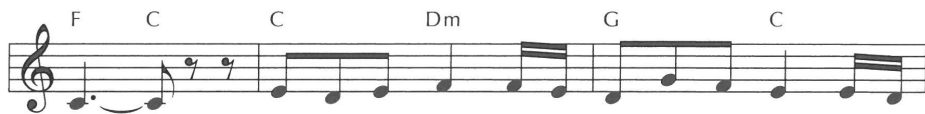
Great Are You, Lord

614

Great Is the Lord



Great are you, Lord: you are ho-ly and just; by your pow-er we trust in your



love. Great are you, Lord: you are faith-ful and true; by your



mer-cy you prove you are love. Great are you, Lord, and



wor-thy of glo-ry! Great are you, Lord, and wor-thy of praise.



Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:



great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

Although it is not a direct paraphrase of any particular psalm, this text echoes "great is the Lord and greatly to be praised," found in three of them (Psalms 48:1; 96:4; 145:3). Such songs of adoration lift up the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God's presence.

Our God Is an Awesome God 616

Awesome God

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Our God Is an Awesome God'. The first staff is in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 2/2 time. It contains the melody for the first line of the song: 'Our God is an awe-some God who reigns from heav-en a-bove'. Above the staff are the chords C, G, D, and Em. The second staff continues the melody for the second line: 'with wis - dom, power, and love; our God is an awe-some God!'. Above this staff are the chords C, G, Am, Em, B7, and Em. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

This is a contemporary worship song that first gained recognition on Christian radio and later became a popular congregational song. "Awesome" here is not a trivial expression but carries the meaning of "awe-inspiring" and is based on Scripture (e.g. Daniel 9:4).

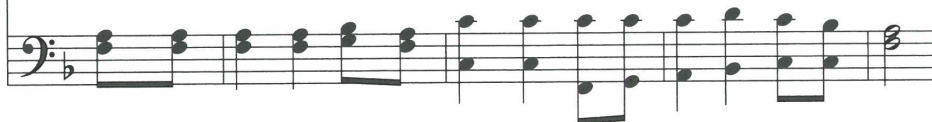
410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



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.