



# Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025 / 10 AM

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## *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.**

\*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.**

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 327

## From All That Dwell Below the Skies

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Lord Jesus Christ, we remember with gratitude those people who have blessed 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 & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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

COMMUNAL BLESSING: BLESSED THROUGH CHALLENGES

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

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

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

River in Judea

\*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 172

**Blest are They**

(choir sings verses; congregation sings refrain)

Refrain

**Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

# LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:3-12

SERMON

The Barber's Chair

Rev. Dr. Phillips

# SEND

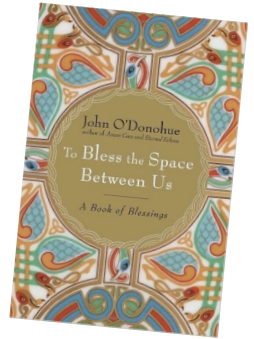
\*HYMN 295

**Go to the World!**

\*BENEDICTION



Born January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 52<sup>nd</sup> 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:

Festival Choir, *Music Ministry*  
Mark Cozine, *Usher Captain*  
Gail Ahrens, *Greeter*

Following worship, join us in Founders Hall to play bingo and enjoy fellowship. All are welcome! Popcorn will be served. There will be prizes too!!!

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God.

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).



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

### **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.

### **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

### **ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE 2026**

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

# 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](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 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

WASHINGTON D.C. BUS TRIP on March 1!

Join us for an epic adventure to Washington, D.C.—all are invited to attend! We will take a bus to the Museum of the Bible and National Gallery of Art. This will serve as a retreat for the confirmation class, culmination of our Faith and Art class, and one-off good time for anyone else who wants in! Cost is \$75 per person. **Please register as soon as possible.**

## 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.





# 327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

(Psalm 117)

*Unison*

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -  
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -  
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

*Harmony* *Unison*

rise: Let the Re - deem - er's  
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all  
 word: Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.  
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.  
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

*Harmony*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Watts's paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals have created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn. Perhaps the best solution is found by adding Alleluias, as this tune invites.

*Unison*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a unison setting of 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the treble staff. The music features a simple, homophonic style with block chords and a clear melodic line.

# Blest Are They

172

Gsus Leader or All G D C

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -  
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -

Dsus D7 Gsus G Gsus G

king - dom of God. Blest are they,  
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who  
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, the  
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who  
 cause of me. Re - joice, be glad;

D C Dsus D Gsus G

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.  
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
 pure of heart; they shall see God.  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain All C D7 G D Em G C G

Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are you;

Am A D C D7 Em Em7

ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!

C Dsus D C G

Yours is the king - dom of God!

This hymn paraphrases the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), the opening portion of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Similar words of blessing also occur in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-23). Both sets of sayings reverse worldly values and offer a new understanding of God's ways.

# Go to the World!

295

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.