



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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.

PRELUDE Lord, I Want to be a Christian

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.**

(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 Jesus Loves Me / I've Got that Joy / I'm So Blessed

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.



I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart,
down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I've got the peace that passeth understanding, ...

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, ...



I'm so blessed, I'm so blessed, got this heartbeat in my chest
No it doesn't matter about the rest if I got You Lord I'm so blessed!

On my best day, I'm a child of God! On my worst day, I'm a child of God.
Oh everyday, is a good day, you're the reason why.

I'm so blessed, I'm so blessed, got this heartbeat in my chest
No it doesn't matter about the rest if I got You Lord I'm so blessed!

*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

COMMUNAL BLESSING: BLESSING OF CHILDREN

(see insert)

At the conclusion, we look forward to welcoming all children through 8th grade children 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!*

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

Sweet Hour of Prayer

*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 & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 625

O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 19:13-15

SERMON

Having A Moment

Rev. Dr. Phillips

SEND

*HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joyful Praise



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Deena Andrews & Bell Choir, *Music Ministry*

Bob Kissell, *Usher Captain*

Karen Beare, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given in memory of Fu-Yun Tseng, loving father and grandfather, 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.

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**

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.

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

New Kerygma Program—Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm

An innovative and insightful new way to know both the CONTENT of Scripture and the MEANING of God's Holy Word, join us for this Bible study beginning March 5th.

Each class will include lectures, discussion and various media to bring God's wisdom and comfort to students, as we study

how "God Saves a People" using THE KERYGMA PROGRAM, a thematic approach to Bible study. Facilitated

by Rev. Phil Jones (phil@rccpc.org).

To register, go to <https://www.rccpc.org>.

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*

Nancy James, *Clerk of Session* ❖ Sue Gleason, *Deacon Moderator*

Bill Ciabattoni, *Belong Chair* ❖ Darlyn Green-Kocher, *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.



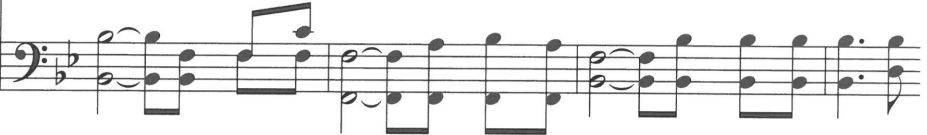
Refrain



u - ni - verse dis - played:
feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
take a - way my sin:
God, how great thou art!"



thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my



Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!



Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.