



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, MARCH 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

Help me, dear Lord, to see my brother with the eyes of Christ, to hear my sister with the ears of Christ, to taste my neighbor's hunger with the mouth of Christ, to smell creation's beauty with the nose of Christ, to touch the world's pain with the hands of Christ, and to love life, each life, every life, with the heart of Christ. Amen.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: "And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark,

Many: he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed."

One: In the quiet of Gethsemane, Jesus took time to pray, embracing the space to connect with God, to renew His strength.

Many: We come together, inspired by Jesus, seeking God's presence as we pause and make room for grace.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: In the garden, Jesus knelt in prayer, seeking God's will, even as he faced the weight of all that was to come. Let us, too, come before God in honesty,

Many: Gracious God, we come before you today as those who know the weight of decision and the heaviness of our choices. Like Jesus in Gethsemane, we offer you our fears, our doubts, and our desire to control. We confess that we often choose the path of least resistance, seeking comfort over surrender. We confess that we, too, have fallen asleep when called to stay awake with you. We have allowed fear to cloud our judgment, and our hearts have hesitated when your call was clear.

*SUNG RESPONSE

I Surrender All

*All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.
All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me.
I surrender all, I surrender all; all to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Jesus walked the garden alone, but we are never alone. In His suffering, He makes us whole. In His surrender, we find our freedom.

Many: We are forgiven, we are set free. Thanks be to God!

*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 I Surrender All

*I surrender all, I surrender all; all to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 3:1-13

During this Season of Lent, our scripture verses will be “paired”. The first highlights the “seeds” of foreshadowing; the latter highlights events leading Jesus to the olive trees in the garden of Gethsemane.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Go to Dark Gethsemane

*Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s power;
your Redeemer’s conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 14:32-34

SERMON

Sit Here While I Pray

Rev. Brad Martin

HYMN 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

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.



*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SEND

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

GRACIOUS INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: May the God of the Lenten journey be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us offer our hearts to God.

Many: We open them so we may be filled with the gifts of Lenten discipleship.

One: Let us lift our glad thanksgivings to our God.

Many: We offer praise to the One who gives us strength for this journey.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All are welcome to the table! This morning the congregation is served in procession. Those seated in the pews at the front of the sanctuary begin the procession when directed by ushers.

For those unable to process forward, stay seated and a server will bring the sacrament to you.

All bread is gluten-free; please take a piece from the offered tray. Empty glasses are placed in the bowls provided near the communion servers.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Many: Eternal God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world. Fill us with your grace and send us out to be signs of your grace and love in all we do. Amen.

*HYMN 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*BENEDICTION



We are grateful to have The Rev. Brad Martin preaching today! Brad Martin was born and raised on a farm near Kittanning in western Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA; he earned a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1984 and a Master of Theology in 1996. Brad was appointed as Chaplain of the Wilmington Fire Department in 1985. In moving to Wilmington, Brad first served as Associate Pastor of the First and Central Presbyterian Church and then as Interim Pastor of the New Castle Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Barb, were called to Trinity Presbyterian Church in 1991 where they served for 33 years until retiring in June of 2024. They have two sons who live in the New York City area.

Brad and Barb enjoy regular trips to the farm in western Pennsylvania. In retirement, Brad continues in ministry with the Wilmington Fire Department, and he enjoys working at McCrery & Harra.

Thanks to today's worship participants:

Elyse Blaier and Chancel Choir, *Music Ministry*

Bob Emmons, *Usher Captain*

Barbara Sowden, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given in loving memory of my mother, Lillian Fox,
from Barbara Fox.

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 & Events* during the coming year.

HOLY WEEK 2025

- ◆ **Maundy Thursday** — April 17th | 7PM
- ◆ **Good Friday** — April 18th | 12PM
- ◆ **Easter Sunday** — April 20th | 9AM Resurrection Remembrance with Dove Release (*Memory Garden*) and 10AM Worship (*Sanctuary*)

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 2025 | 9AM-12PM

- ◆ Instrumental Music | July 7-11 | Completed 4th Grade and Up
- ◆ General Arts | July 14-18 | Completed K-5th Grade
- ◆ TV & Film | July 21-25 | Completed K-8th Grade

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

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 Karen Vordemberge at kvordemberge@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

Unplugged Coffeehouse: Wednesday, March 12

Join us for an evening of music, food, spoken word, art, and fellowship as we "unplug" during Lent. Our first Unplugged coffeehouse will take place on **Wednesday, March 12th from 7 pm - 8 pm in Fellowship Hall.**

If you play music, create art, recite poetry, or anything else you'd like to present, talk to Ben (ben@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*

Quiara Smith, *Sunday School 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* ❖ Kathy Ciabattoni, *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

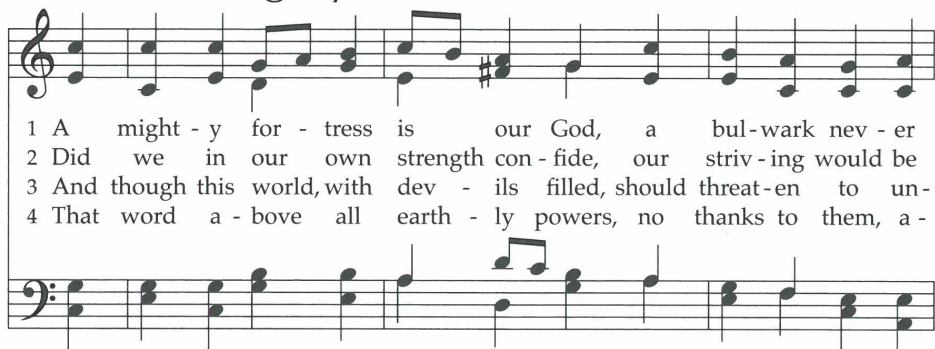
Our church has "**roots**" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope 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.

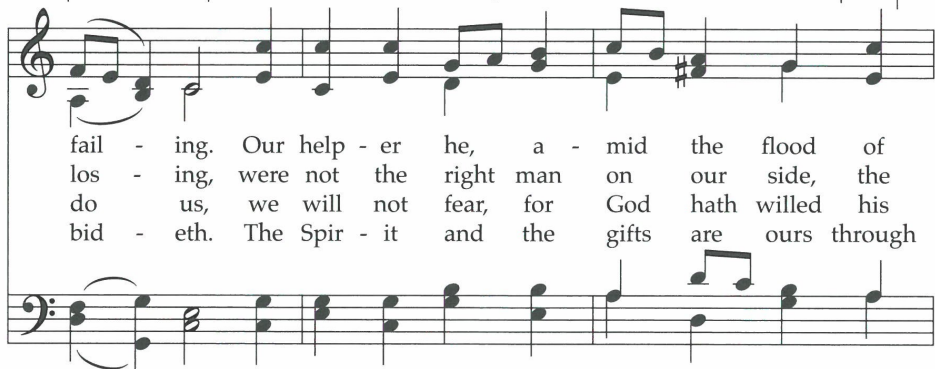
Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder of God's transformative presence.



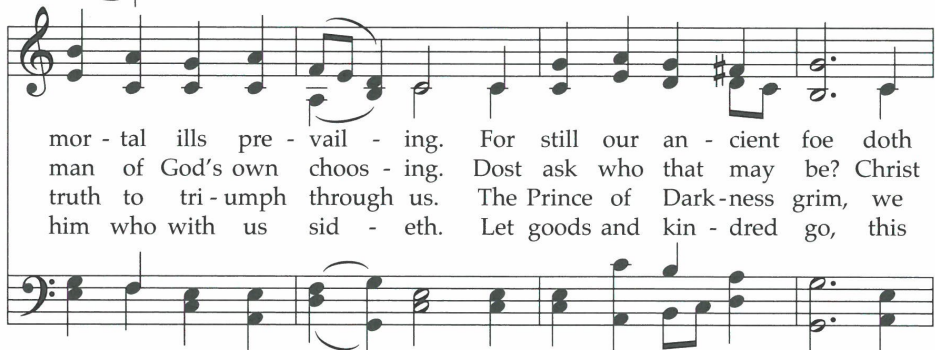
275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



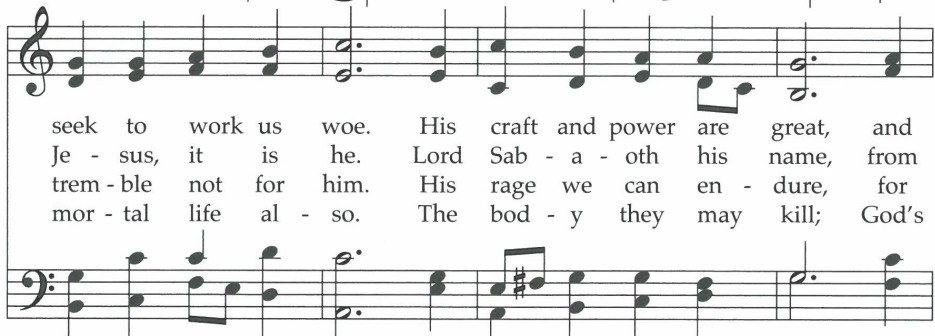
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we
him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this



seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

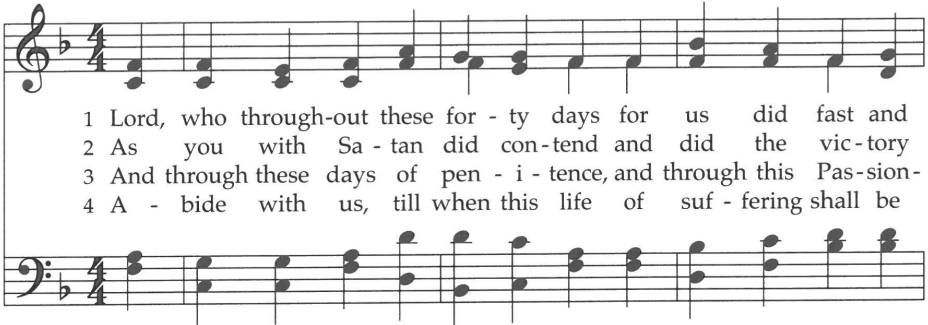
Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

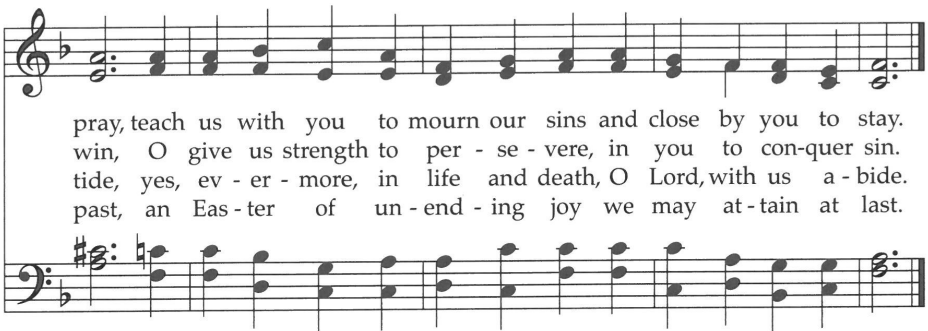
The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual. age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle. lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him. truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er." The word "fell" is likely a typo for "fall".

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

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1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be



pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.