



# Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 McKennans Church Road  
Wilmington DE 19808  
(302) 998-0434 / rccpc.org

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025 / 10 AM

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

**Please silence your cell phones.**

## GATHER

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

*Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

PRELUDE

Alleluia, Amen!

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In a world filled with violence and war,  
**Many: we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.**  
One: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,  
**Many: we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.**  
One: In a world filled with hunger and greed,  
**Many: we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.**  
One: Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,  
**Many: the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.**

**\*HYMN 331                      God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Many: O blessed Spirit of Truth, you search the heart and test the inmost thoughts; help me remember my sins, and let me see them in your light. Strengthen me also with courage to confess them truly, hiding nothing, excusing nothing, keeping back nothing in my heart. In your mercy, pardon and absolve, and thus heal me, that I may arise and sin no more, through the merits and for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord and only Savior. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. (*Romans 8:34*) Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.  
**Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE                      Sometimes by Step    (sing twice)                      Rich Mullins**

***O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You  
O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You  
I will seek You in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me, and I will follow You all of my days***

**\*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 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the nursery or their Sunday school classes, as the congregation prepares to hear the sermon.*

\*SUNG RESPONSE

Sometimes by Step

Rich Mullins

***I will seek You in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me and I will follow You all of my days***

## PRAYER

MUSICAL OFFERING

I'll Fly Away

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

Beautiful Savior

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.***

***Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 821

**My Life Flows On**

# LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 1:4-10

SERMON

Who, Me?

Rev. Nancy W. Anderson

# SEND

\*HYMN 8

**Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

\*BENEDICTION



*Following today's service, we invite you to gather in the cemetery for a short Memorial Day Tribute, as we give thanks for the lives of those who died in battle and remember with gratitude their sacrifice.*



We welcome Rev. Nancy W. Anderson to our pulpit today. She recently retired from full-time ministry after pastoring churches in Iowa and Wilmington. Nancy grew up in California where she met Jesus in high school. She then completed her undergraduate degree in studio art at Mount Holyoke College.

Throughout college and ever since, Nancy has participated in and led many small group Bible study/fellowship groups. After college she moved to Seattle, and after working in retail, the hotel industry, an architecture firm and several churches, Nancy responded to God's call to full time ministry. She attended seminary at Regent College in Vancouver, BC, enjoying her time there and getting to know people who love God from all around the world.

Even though Nancy has retired from “professional” ministry, she is still enthusiastic about helping others discover and develop their relationship with God in Jesus by means of Bible study, prayer, service, and artistic expression. Nancy enjoys painting, drawing, reading mysteries, knitting, and traveling and camping with her husband, Jeff.

Thanks to today's worship participants:

Bell Choir, *Music Ministry*  
Rick Marsey, *Usher Captain*  
Hank Smithies, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of my parents,  
H. Dudley Barton & Kathleen Barton, who were married at RCCPC  
on May 31, 1952, from Keith Barton.

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

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).



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OUTDOOR MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE  
SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025 / 11 AM

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WELCOME AND OPENING

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (vss. 1,2)

*O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;  
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!*

SCRIPTURE READINGS    Isaiah 2:2-4, Galatians 5:13-14, John 15:12-13

CLOSING PRAYER

FINAL HYMN

This Is My Song (vss. 1,3)

*This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:  
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.  
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,  
And hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:  
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.*

BENEDICTION

# 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](mailto: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](http://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

### June 1: Outdoor Worship Service & Celebration Picnic!

Join us for an outdoor worship service in our upper meadow area on Sunday, June 1 (10 am). Chairs will be available but feel free to bring your own lawn chair. Following worship, please stay for our Celebration Picnic & Strawberry Social. The main course—subs, fried & grilled chicken, hotdogs—will be provided. Please RSVP and bring a favorite picnic side or salad to share. We'll have outdoor games and activities all afternoon, plus a bounce house for kids. Our strawberry bar will feature the freshest local strawberries for shortcakes with all the toppings.

## 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*

\* For a complete list of all Session Ruling Elders and Board of Deacons members, please refer to <https://www.rccpc.org>.\*

### 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.





# 331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

(optional)

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y  
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the  
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -  
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.  
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.  
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day.

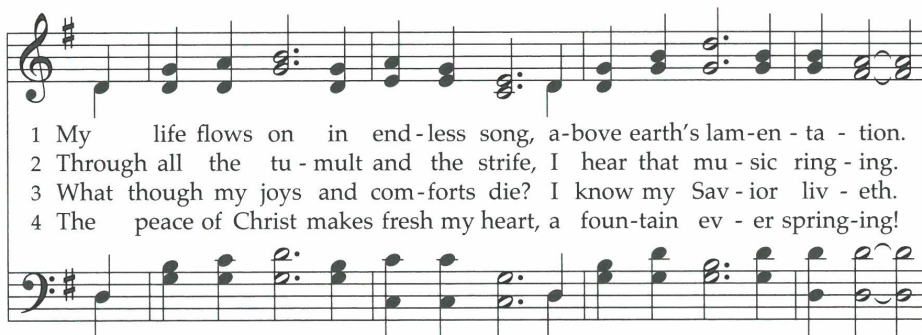
of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,  
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:  
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.  
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.  
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.  
 Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

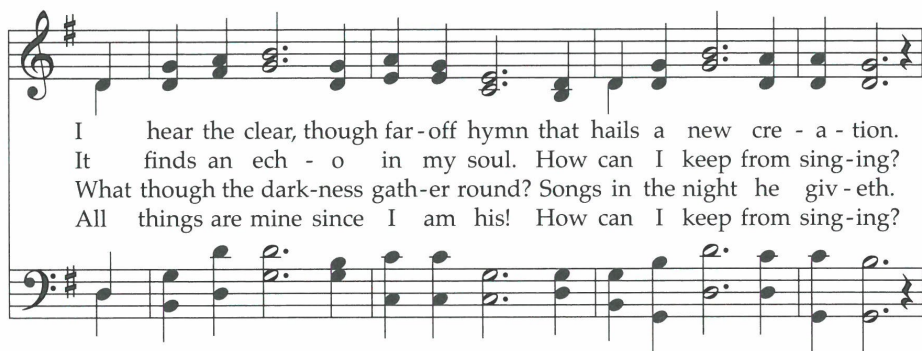
This hymn was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.

# My Life Flows On

## How Can I Keep from Singing?

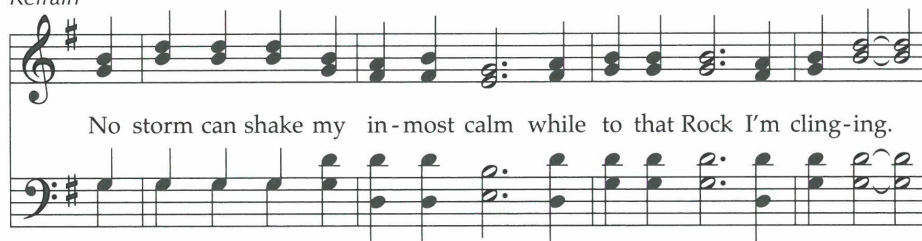


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.  
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

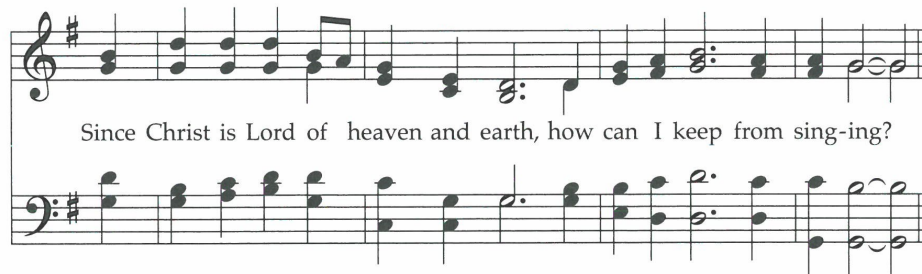


I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

### Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

## 8

## Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the cha - os  
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all trav - elers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
 wild and rude, and bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we  
 calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we  
 gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we  
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

The year after this text was written for a student sailing to America, it was included in the most influential British hymnal of the 19th century. The tune especially composed for it preserves the ancient Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.