



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025 / 10 AM

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

The Peace Prayer

*Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet. Peace within us, peace over us, let all
around us be peace.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Amen. So be it. The word that ends our prayers and begins our trust.

**Many: Amen. So be it. Our yes to God's promises and God's love
made real.**

One: Amen. So be it. A candle in the darkness and a path into hope.

Many: Come, let us worship God,

One: and say with one voice,

Many: So be it! Amen!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 10 **Sing Glory to the Name of God** (Psalm 29)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(From PCUSA's *Book of Common Worship*)

Many: **Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a prayerful and quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Many: **Amen and amen.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Sweet Hour of Prayer

***Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT, COMMISSIONING OF SUMMER ARTS CAMPS
STAFF, HELPERS & VOLUNTEERS, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ben & Deena Andrews, Jenn Bufford, Karen Caldas, Delaney Christel, Debra Jay Crowley, Josephine DeCaire, Elaine DeLuca, Christine Fischer, Diane Freed, John & Leslie Gast, Sue Gleason, Darlyn Green-Kocher, Mary Ellen Gruber, Madelyn Haggerty, Aidan Hawley, Ellen Hinrichs, Bonnie Hudson, Nancy James, Meredith Jones, Allen Leonhard, Sofia Martin, Athan & Kim McCorkell, Luke Meyer, Pam Meyer, Linda Neel, Martha Parvis, Fran Petersen, Elizabeth Phung, Jamie Russell, Joel Salinas, Bryan Sanders, Eric Sanford, Caleigh Serpico, Christine Shaw, Vicki Smith, Michael Snouffer, Linda Sopkanich, Alyce & Matthew Styles, Barb Vanderkraats, Samuel Van Horne, Jovie & Lawson Vaughn, Abigail Walton, Steve Wood

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Simple Gifts

PRAYER

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEPHEN MINISTRY

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.



*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE O Praise the Name (Anástasis; sing twice)

***O praise the name of the Lord our God, O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise, Oh Lord, oh Lord our God***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS I Chronicles 4:9-10; Matthew 7:7-12

MUSICAL OFFERING

For the Beauty of the Earth

Rutter

SERMON

Amen: Boldly Pray Where You Haven't Prayed Before

Rev. Jasmine Smart

THE MERTON PRAYER

(from Thoughts in Solitude)

Many: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end, nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

SEND

*HYMN 337

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

*BENEDICTION



From <https://merton.org/chrono.aspx>

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) is arguably the most influential American Catholic author of the 20th century. His autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, has sold over 1,000,000 copies and has been translated into over 15 languages. He wrote over 60 other books and hundreds of poems and articles on topics ranging from monastic spirituality to civil rights, nonviolence, and the nuclear arms race.

Thomas Merton was born in Prades, France. His New Zealand-born father and his American-born mother were both artists who had met at painting school in Paris, France. After a rambunctious youth and adolescence, Merton converted to Roman Catholicism whilst at Columbia University; in December 1941 he arrived at the Abbey of Gethsemani, a community of monks belonging to the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (Trappists), the most ascetic Roman Catholic monastic order, in Kentucky. The 27 years he spent in Gethsemani brought about profound changes in his self-understanding, which impelled him into the political arena where he became “the conscience of the peace movement of the 1960's”.

Referring to race and peace as the two most urgent issues of our time, Merton was a strong supporter of the nonviolent civil rights movement, which he called "certainly the greatest example of Christian faith in action in the social history of the United States." For his social activism Merton endured severe criticism, i.e., his political writings were unbecoming of a monk.

During his last years, he became deeply interested in Asian religions, particularly Zen Buddhism, and in promoting East-West dialogue. After several meetings with Merton in 1968, the Dalai Lama praised him as having a more profound understanding of Buddhism than any other Christian he had known. It was during this trip that Merton died, near Bangkok.



A special welcome today to Rev. Jasmine Smart, a dear friend of the Phillips family! Pastor Jasmine currently serves as the Transitional Pastor of Congregational Care and a Stephen Leader at Kirk In The Hills in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Pastor Jasmine is a graduate of Calvin University and Princeton Theological Seminary. Pastor Jasmine moved to the Detroit area in 2016, was ordained at Kirk in the Hills in 2017, and has also served at First Presbyterian Troy, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Community Presbyterian in Waterford, and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. She served as the Moderator of the Detroit Presbytery in 2022. She is originally from the Pacific Northwest, and enjoys rainy days with coffee and a book.



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Festival Choir & Deena Andrews, *Music Ministry*
Rick Marsey, *Usher Captain*; Susan Kissell, Donna Reilly, Linda Morgan, *Ushers*
Joyce McClellan and Martha Parvis, *Greeters*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Kenneth L. Charles,
from Sandy & Joe Sarjeant.

Join us for refreshments and fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude... or, come watch our Stars, Stripes, and Spokes: Kids' Wheels Parade outside after the Blessing of the Bikes!



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

SUMMER ARTS CAMPS — 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 14th, 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 — February 22nd – March 22nd, 2026

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

HOLY WEEK 2026

- ◆ Maundy Thursday — April 2nd | 7PM
- ◆ Good Friday — April 3rd | 12PM
- ◆ Easter Sunday — April 5th | 10AM Worship

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — April 26th, 2026 | 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 7th, 2026 | 10AM

Join us in the back meadow for worship and our annual picnic.

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

The CHOSEN (Season 2): Movie Night & Discussion
Beginning July 9

Starting THIS WEDNESDAY, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall for 8 continuous weeks from 6:30 to 8:00 pm to watch and discuss the second season of the acclaimed Netflix series, The Chosen. Snacks will be provided. Bring your own water or soft drink. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP using the QR code above.

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.



10 Sing Glory to the Name of God

(Psalm 29)

Unison

1 Sing glo - ry to the name of God, whose ho - ly splen - dor shines a -
 2 The name of God is full of might: re - sound - ing thun - der, flash - ing
 3 The name of God is wild and free, a - whirl in ho - ly mys - ter -
 4 May God for - ev - er be our peace; may hymns of glo - ry nev - er

Harmony *Unison*

broad.
 light.
 y.
 cease:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

En - throned a - bove the
 The wil - der - ness can -
 A se - cret wrapped in
 Let all the faith - ful

crash - ing waves, the God of grace and glo - ry saves.
 not con - tain the ech - oes of the great re - frain:
 smoke and fire, still chant - ed by the tem - ple choir:
 peo - ple come; sing praise to God, the Three - in - One:

This sweeping paraphrase of Psalm 29 conveys a sense of the Jewish reverence for the sheer power of God's name, regarded as too holy for mortal tongues to pronounce. In keeping with its appointment for Trinity Sunday, the final stanza gives the psalm a Christian interpretation.

Harmony

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia,

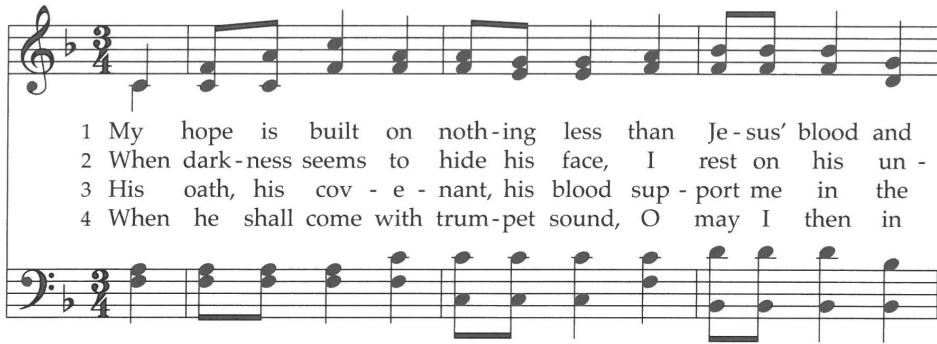
This musical system is for the Harmony section. It consists of two staves, treble and bass, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written in the treble staff, featuring a series of eighth and quarter notes with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia,'.

Unison

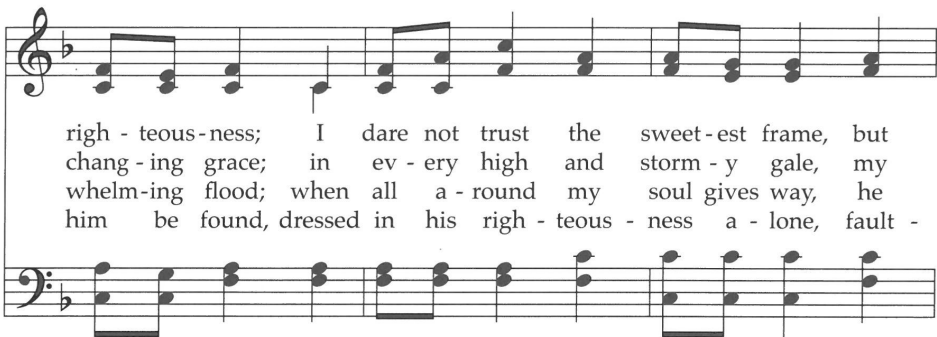
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

This musical system is for the Unison section. It also consists of two staves, treble and bass, in the key of D major. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'. The system ends with a double bar line.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353

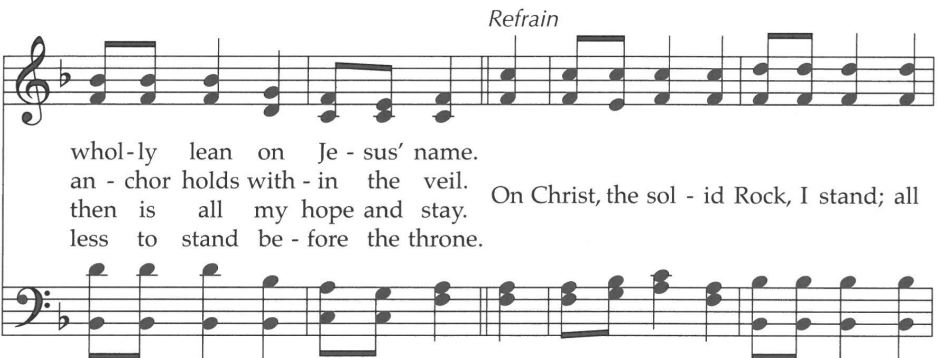


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

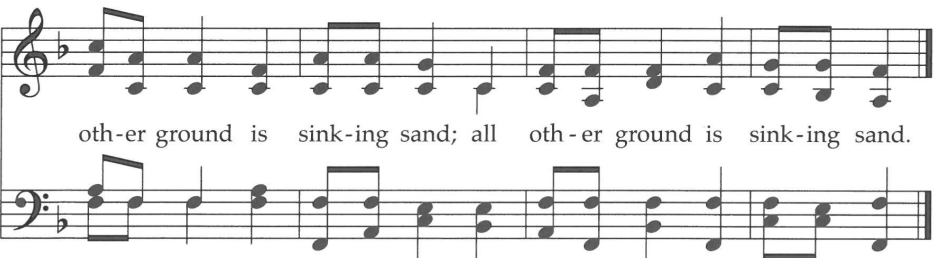


righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24-27/Luke 6:47-49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of
 2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the
 3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from
 4 Our *fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of

lib - er - ty, of thee I sing: land where my
 no - ble free, thy name I love; I love thy
 all the trees sweet free - dom's song. Let mor - tal
 lib - er - ty, to thee we sing. Long may our

*fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,
 rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;
 tongues a - wake; let all that breathe par - take;
 land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;

from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring.
 my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
 let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
 pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

*Or "parents"

This now-familiar patriotic song was written by a Baptist minister and received its first public performance at an Independence Day celebration by the Boston Sabbath School Union in 1831. It was written to replace a German patriotic text sung to the same tune.