



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ryan Webb

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Do not remember the former things, or dwell on the past.

Many: See, God is doing a new thing! Now it springs forth—do we not perceive it?

One: God makes a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Many: We come to worship the God who turns the page and writes new stories of grace.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray together.

Many: **God of all our yesterdays and tomorrows, we confess that we cling too tightly to pages that have already turned. We dwell in regret. We linger in fear. We resist the winds of change even when they carry Your Spirit.**

Forgive us, for the times we've refused Your invitation to begin again. Forgive us, for rehearsing old hurts and rereading worn-out stories instead of opening our hearts to resurrection.

Write in us, O Christ, a new chapter—one of courage, trust, and hope. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

Many: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Be Still, My Soul!

*Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

PRAYER

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

Rewrite the Stars

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Cornerstone

***My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' Name.
Christ alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 300

We Are One in the Spirit

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

MUSICAL OFFERING

Sicilienne

Fauré

SERMON

Turning the Page: In the Middle

Rev. Dr. Phillips

SEND

*HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*BENEDICTION

At the conclusion of worship, all are invited to Founders Hall
for our annual Sundae Sunday social! Everyone gets
a complimentary sundae with all the trimmings.
We hope to see you there!



**You Are Invited to Homecoming Sunday,
on September 14, 2025!**

We're excited to welcome all members, friends, and families of our church
congregation to a special Homecoming Sunday Worship Service on
September 14, 2025!

Here's what's happening:

- **OUTDOOR WORSHIP:** Join us in the beautiful meadow area for a joyful service.
- **BBQ LUNCH:** Stay after worship for delicious BBQ sandwiches with your church family.
- **SPECIAL MUSIC:** Enjoy uplifting music throughout the morning.
- **KIDS' ACTIVITIES:** Children can look forward to fun activities—including a Ninja Slackline!



Let us know you'll be there by filling out the form using the QR code! If
you are able to bring a dessert, note that too!

Bring your friends, your family, and your appetite for fellowship and fun.
We can't wait to celebrate with you!



We welcome Ryan Webb, author of [Saving Will](#) to our service today! This morning at 8:30 am, he provided an engaging discussion of his powerful story, which represents Ryan's own 'turning of the page'. We are thrilled to have him join us in worship!



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Deena Andrews & Jessie Reagen, *Music Ministry*
Bob Kissell, *Usher Captain*
Hank Smithies, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of their son and daughter,
from Marge and Halton Cropper.



Join us for coffee & fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude!

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.

HOMEcomings 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

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

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; Good Friday — April 3rd
- ♦ 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.

SUMMER ARTS CAMPS — July 2026 | 9AM-12PM

Kids will have music, drama, visual arts, snacks, and FUN, culminating with Bingo and performance night, as well as Youth Sunday.

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

Today is Final Registration for Parables: Stories for Life in God's World!

Today is in the final day to register for our fall 8-week class on timeless stories that reflect our faith and the uniqueness of parables, exploring how Jesus conveyed the essence of Good News. Led by Pastor Phil, classes will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm, beginning September 10th through October 29th. The registration fee of \$30 (only one fee per couple if sharing materials), includes resource book, binder and printouts. Contact the office via email (office@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* ❖ 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.



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To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
 2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
 but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

The first line of the refrain consists of two staves. The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!

The second line continues the musical theme, with the treble staff melody and bass staff accompaniment.

O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,

The third line of the refrain features a more complex melody in the treble staff, including a half note and a quarter note, with a corresponding bass staff accompaniment.

and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!

The final line of the refrain concludes with a melody in the treble staff and a bass staff accompaniment, ending with a double bar line.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

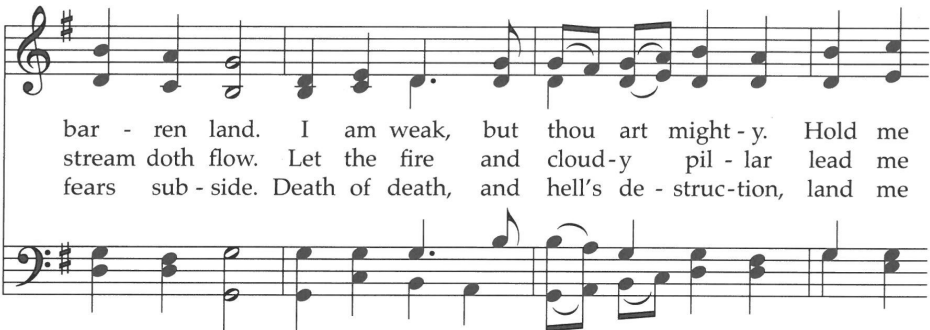
love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

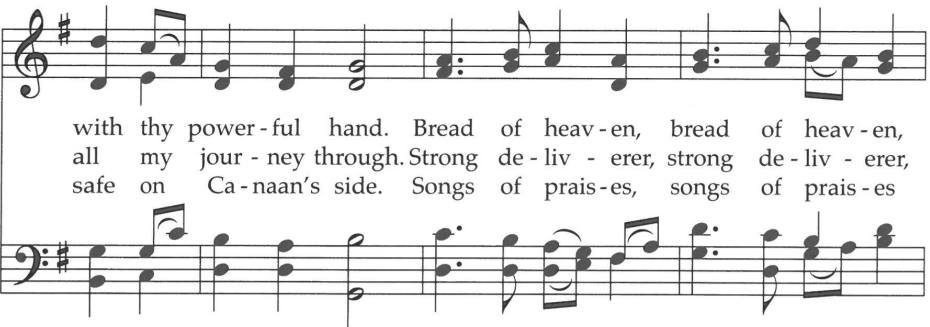
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



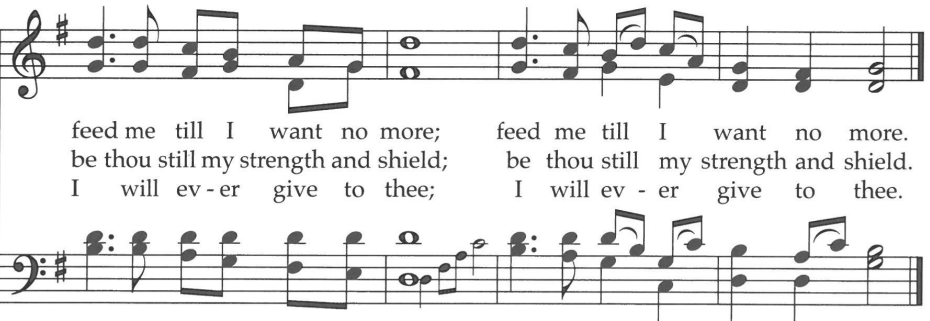
1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



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.