



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 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

Rev. William Sloane Coffin

Gracious God, grant us the grace never to sell ourselves short, the grace to risk something big for something good, and the grace to remember that this world is now too dangerous for anything but the truth and too small for anything but love.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Psalm 133 and Psalm 100)

One: How good and pleasant it is when sisters and brothers live together in unity.

Many: It is like precious oil poured out, like the dew of Hermon falling on Zion.

(continued)

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Many: **Worship the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing.**

One: We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Many: **Come, let us worship the Lord.**

*HYMN 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

*CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Before the God who knows us completely, before the God whose mercy holds us fast, let us tell the truth about our lives.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: **Before You, O God, we confess: We have kept our love small. We have made our vision narrow. We have guarded the form of faith, while neglecting its heart. We have been quick to defend ourselves, slow to offer grace. Forgive us. Break open what is closed in us. Restore what is broken in us. And call us again to love You and our neighbor, with all that we are.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: The God who is love will not let us go. In Jesus Christ, grace is greater than all our sin.

Many: **We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Guide My Feet

Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!) (sing twice)

***Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)***

Hold my hand while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!) (sing twice)

***Hold my hand while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & THE LORD'S PRAYER

RCCPC is thrilled to accept the gift of a bench for our outdoor playground area from the Scouts of Pack 29.

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.

SUNG RESPONSE

Guide My Feet

Search my heart while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!) (sing twice)

***Search my heart while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)***

Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!) (sing twice)

***Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)***

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 6:8-15

SERMON

Baby Whisperers

Rev. Dr. Phillips

HYMN 538

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

CALL TO THE OFFERING

The congregation is invited to join in singing HYMN 525 with the choir—

"Let Us Break Bread Together."

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 We Give Thee but Thine Own

***We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SEND

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

GRACIOUS INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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

One: Eternal God,

Many: We thank you that in Christ you have fed us with the bread of life: may we who have tasted your bounteous gifts proclaim this good news to the ends of the earth, that all people might come to know that you dwell in our midst, eager to greet your creation with abounding love and mercy; we ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*BENEDICTION



Thanks to today's worship participants:
Rev. John Molina Moore, *Guest Liturgist*
Chancel Choir, *Music Ministry*
Bob Emmons, *Usher Captain*; Sandy Dudley, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of my father, David D. Dick,
from Arlene Thompson.

Join us for coffee & fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude...
or head outside to support Lucky Shot Coffee!

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.rccp.org.



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!



ADULT SMALL GROUPS

Join an Adult Small Group this fall! Small Groups are all about real life change through authentic relationships. God designed us for community, and in Small Groups, we find a place to connect, grow, and support one another in our faith journey. Whether you're looking for a fun activity or a Bible study, there's a group for you. Life is better together, and we can't wait for you to experience the power of Small Groups!

Here are some of our small groups:

- Adult Forum
- Afternoon Games Group (AGGies)
- Art Group
- Arcaders Group
- Bell Choir
- Body & Soul Bible Study Group
- Care Choir
- Caregiver Support Group
- Centering Prayer Group
- Chancel Choir
- Counted Cross Stitch Group
- Craft Group
- Faith, Hope & Love Quilt Group
- Knitting/Crocheting Handwork Group
- Monday AM Bible Study
- Men's Bible Study
- Pastor's Bible Study
- Parables Bible Study
- Romeo's Group

SCAN ME



For more information: rccpc.org/smallgroups/



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BIRTH - 8TH GRADE

NURSERY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERY SUNDAY - DURING WORSHIP

- Nursery care is available for our youngest children
- Sunday school for children in Pre-K - 8th grade begins after the Children's Moment
- Questions? Contact jamie@rccpc.org

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 21 - 11:00 - 11:30AM

- Children in kindergarten - 5th grade meet weekly after Sunday School to learn and sing together
- Questions? Contact deena@rccpc.org

RECESS AT RED CLAY

SEPTEMBER 28 & OCTOBER 19 - 11:30 - 1:00PM

- New this fall, Recess at Red Clay is a 1x per month play and fellowship time for children (nursery - 3rd grade) and their families. Lunch will be provided, followed by playing at the playground.
- Questions? Contact jamie@rccpc.org

YOUNGER YOUTH

SEPTEMBER 28 & OCTOBER 19 - 11:30 - 1:00PM

- Meeting 1x per month, 4th-7th graders have lunch and enjoy an activity together. This month we'll be making mini-golf obstacles.
- Questions? Contact jamie@rccpc.org

OPEN GYM

OCTOBER 10 - 12:00 - 5:00PM

- Spend your day off from school with us! Inflatable, games, activities, and more. Lunch will be served. An adult must stay.
- Questions? Contact jamie@rccpc.org



6TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

We welcome all youth to Red Clay! We hang out together and learn about God through our various activities and events. Any given weekend, we might be playing pickleball in our Founders Hall gym, going to a soccer game, having a midnighter, playing sports and games, learning about God through the arts, or volunteering in our community. We are proud of our scouting program, confirmation classes, mission trips, and a budding high school service group. If you have any specific questions or are interested in joining the youth group, please contact Ben Andrews at ben@rccpc.org; see rccpc.org/connect/youth.

- Camp Red Clay
- Confirmation
- Orff Ensemble
- Midnighters
- Mission Trips
- Scouts (Troop 29)
- Sunday School
- Youth Group

SCAN ME





SERVICE

LOCAL, REGIONAL & GLOBAL

SEPTEMBER

- Roots & Rays Kids Wish List (begins 9/30)
- Annual Picnic for Friendship House Residents

OCTOBER

- Spooky Service Night for Youth (10/12)

NOVEMBER

- Thanksgiving meals for Friendship House & Table of Plenty

DECEMBER

- Stock Santa's Shop Toy Drive for FH
- Santa's 2nd Run Gifts for local families

JANUARY

- Plan for our annual Roots & Rays Service Challenge

FEBRUARY

- R&R Service Challenge begins
- Rise Against Hunger (2/22)
- Lenten Food drive begins for Food Bank

MARCH

- Service Challenge events continue
- Food Bank Saturday sessions

APRIL

- Easter Meals for Table of Plenty and local schools

MAY

- Highmark Walk for Friendship House

JUNE & JULY

- Arts Camps begin
- Mission to Maine (July 22- Aug. 1)

AUGUST

- Back to School Store for School uniforms and school supplies

YEAR ROUND MINISTRIES

Local Ministries:

Friendship House of DE, Meeting Ground, Humane Animal Partners, Food Bank of DE, Meals on Wheels, Table of Plenty, Emmanuel Dining Room

International Ministries:

Sibanye (S. Africa), CDCA Nicaragua & CEDCAS (Costa Rica)



Our serving ministries, led by Rachele Gilmore (our Director of Community Life) are year-round! If you want more information on how to get involved email Rachele at rachele@rccpc.org to receive our weekly outreach newsletter *The Roots & Rays Rundown*.

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

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

- ♦ 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



Unplugged Coffeehouse is TONIGHT, 7:00 PM!

Join us TONIGHT from 7-8 PM as we kick off our next coffeehouse series with Samuel Yenn Batah, professional saxophonist & graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary. Our coffeehouse series will occur on the first Sunday of the month this fall. Come see homegrown talent in addition to one featured artist. Hosted by Ben, Deena, and Charlie; and

YES—there will be coffee and dessert!

Doors open at 6:30 PM.

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.

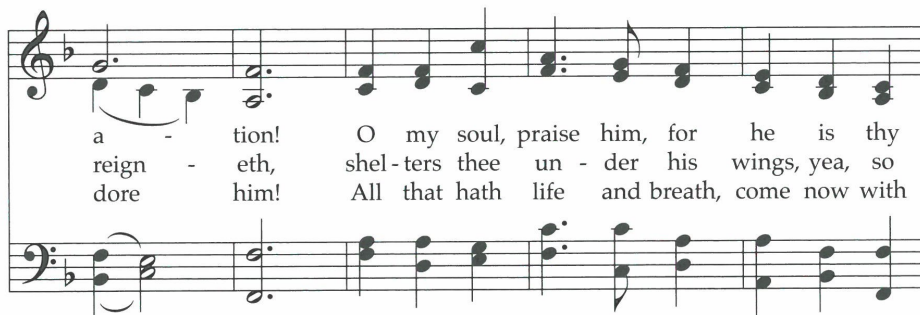
Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder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



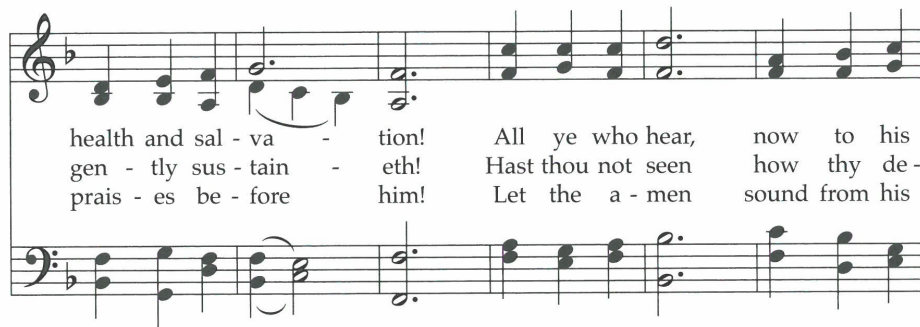
35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty



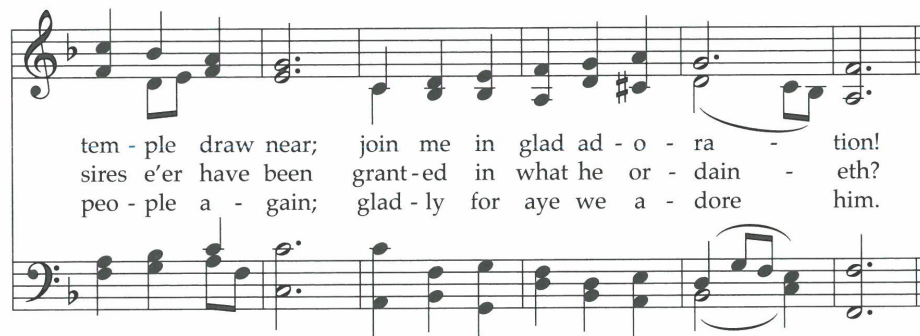
1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



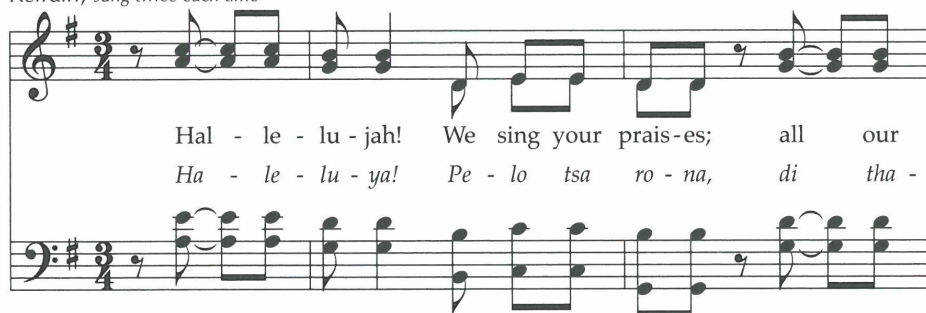
tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

538 Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona

Refrain, sung twice each time



Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais-es; all our
Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -

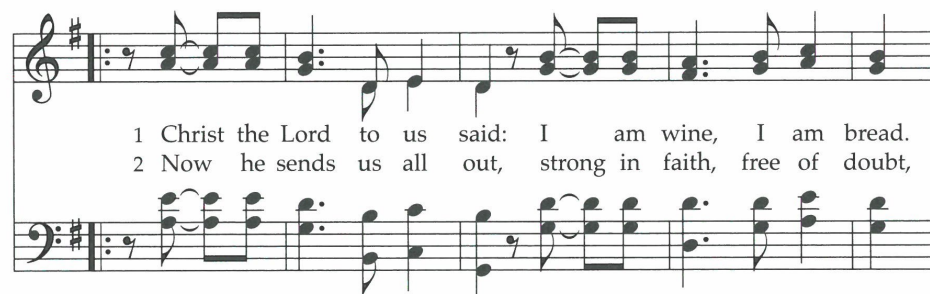


hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa



prais - es; all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.
ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.

Fine



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread.
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain

I am wine, I am bread: give to all who thirst and hun-ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos-pel.

Originally created in the Sotho language, this ecstatic South African hymn reached English by way of a Swedish translation and is now found in numerous hymnals. It can serve as a powerful sending hymn for connecting what happens at the Lord's Table with our mission in the world.

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.