



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 28, 2025 / 10 AM

Rooted in Love, Lighting the Way

Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home!

We're glad you're here. If needed, a family area with CCTV is in the narthex near the front doors, and our nursery is open for young children. Restrooms are available by exiting out the side door near the pulpit and turning left. After worship, join us for Coffee Hour in Founders Hall by the main parking lot. Please silence your cell phone as we enter into worship.

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.

PRELUDE

Marche Royale

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

A MOMENT FOR CARING MINISTRIES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Acts 9)

One: “Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him, and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying...”

Many: “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

One: “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” Like with Saul, God calls us by name, shines light into our lives, and sets us on a new path.

Many: Let us worship God together.

*HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: God of the road ahead, we confess that we often miss Your signs. We rush past what You are revealing, clinging to old maps and familiar paths. We like to know what’s next. We like to be in control. But sometimes You call us to stop, to sit in the dark for a while, to wait for a hand to lead us. Forgive our impatience. Forgive our fear of the unknown. Forgive the ways we resist being changed. Shine Your light around us. Speak our name with love. And when the way is not clear, teach us to trust your son Jesus, who walks beside us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Just as Saul was called by name and led toward grace, so too are we called, forgiven, and made new. Hear and believe the Good News—in Jesus Christ, your past does not define you.

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—and set free to walk a new road. Thanks be to God!

*SUNG RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (vs.1)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*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.

SUNG RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (vs.2)

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION *Audrey Brown,*
daughter of Andrew Michael Brown & Paige Elizabeth Cresci Brown

HYMN 482, vs. 1 Baptized in Water

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.***

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & BAPTISM

HYMN 482, vss. 2,3 Baptized in Water

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.***

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.***

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Many: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church
to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

PRAYER

LITANY OF CARE

After each intercession, please respond: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our 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 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

*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 Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 69 **I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)**

LISTEN

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON I Kings 19:9-12

MUSICAL OFFERING We Have Come to Join in Worship

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 9:7-9

SERMON Damascus Road: Neighborhood Geese Rev. Dr. Phillips

SEND

*HYMN 265

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

*BENEDICTION



We celebrate the one-year anniversary of Barb Vanderkraats' service to the church family as Pastoral Care Coordinator! She has brought her deep compassion and dedication to caring for our congregation, by organizing home communion, coordinating pastoral care efforts with the deacons, and leading our outreach choir ministry. We are grateful for her ongoing service and look forward to the coming year of ministry opportunities. If you have pastoral needs, please reach out to Barb directly (barbara@rccpc.org).



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Rachele Gilmore & Bell Choir, *Music Ministry*

Rick Marsey, *Usher Captain*

Susan Kissell, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Jim Ahrens,
from his loving wife, Gail.

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.

SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING — September 28th, 2025 | 11:30 AM

Join us for a quiet service of prayer and reflection with opportunities for individual prayers for healing, hope, comfort or peace and anointing with oil.

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 — Feb. 22nd–Mar. 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 - Kindergarteners will adjourn to Room 303, Grades 1-3 will adjourn to Room 206, and Grades 4-8 will adjourn to Room 202/204.



UPCOMING EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Next Sunday—Oct. 5: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!

Blessing of the Animals is an age-old practice inspired by St. Francis of Assisi. Bring your animals and we will ask for God's blessing on them. If you are not able to bring your pet, feel free to bring a picture of them, their collar or even a stuffed animal. For the safety of everyone, all animals must be controlled and kept on leashes. All owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. Join us at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 5th. We will gather by the cross near the playground in our main parking lot area



RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, *Senior Pastor/Head of Staff*
Rev. Emily Schwenker ❖ Rev. Dr. Philip Jones

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*
Barbara Vanderkraats, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*
Jamie Russell, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director* ❖ Sofia Martin, *Nursery Support*
Delaney Christel, Josephine DeCaire, Quiara Smith, *Sunday School Teachers*

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.



For the Beauty of the Earth

14

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are numbered 1 through 5, corresponding to the five lines of the hymn.

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are numbered 6 through 10, corresponding to the five lines of the hymn.

Refrain

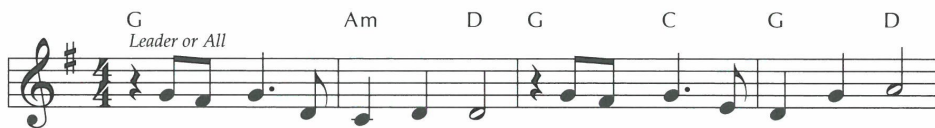
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

The Refrain section consists of two lines of music. The first line is the melody, and the second line is the accompaniment. The lyrics are "Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise."

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



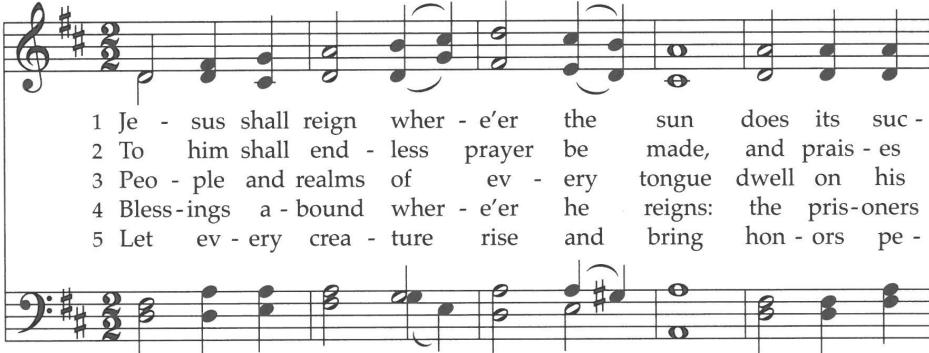
call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



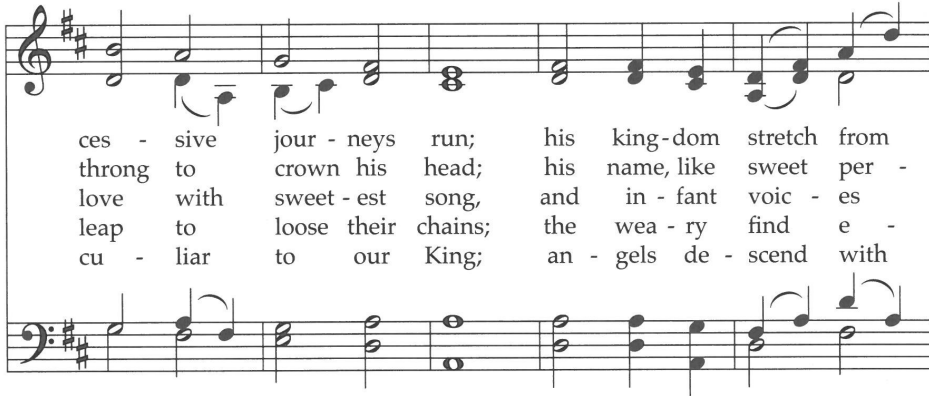
lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

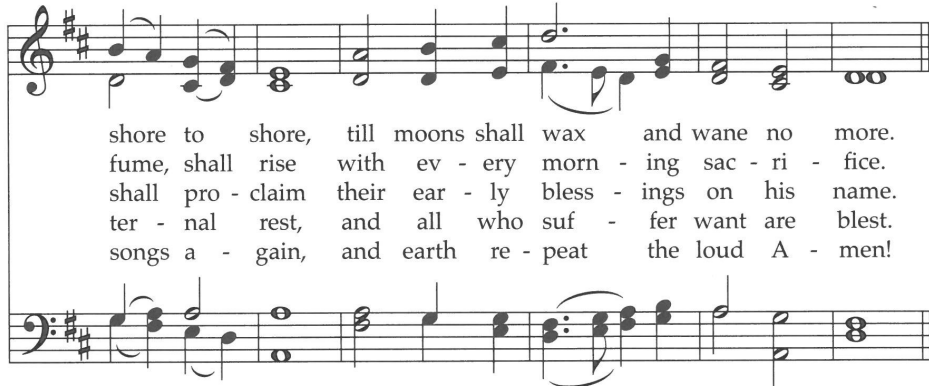
265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5-19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

