



# Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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WORLD COMMUNION SERVICE / SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025 / 10 AM

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## *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.*

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

\*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 372

**O For a World**

\*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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.***

## PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON    Nehemiah 2:1-8

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON    Acts 9:10-19

SERMON    Damascus Road: Dreaming in French    Rev. Dr. Phillips

HYMN 507    **Come to the Table of Grace**

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    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

# SEND

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### GRACIOUS INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord 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

**Many: Gracious God, we thank you for this meal shared in Christ, for bread that unites us with the hungry of the earth, for the cup that binds us with those who long for peace. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to love as we have been loved, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to live as one people—your people—until all the world is gathered at your table in joy. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN 694

**Great God of Every Blessing**

\*BENEDICTION



We are grateful to have The Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore serving communion today on World Communion Sunday! Edee is delighted to be back at Red Clay, having served several years as a Parish Associate here.

Thanks to today's worship participants:

Chancel Choir, *Music Ministry*  
Bob Emmons, *Usher Captain*; Karen Beare, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of my father, Ray Nichols,  
from Lisa Nichols.

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](http://www.rccpc.org).



Red Clay is proud to support three international mission partners. In Costa Rica, we work with CEDCAS and Lillian Solt, traveling most recently in 2024 to offer sewing classes, assist with clinic improvements, and host a children's camp in the Guarari community. In South Africa, our Sibanye mission (“we are one”) partners with local leaders like Unathi Mlisa and Mrs. Bono to provide reading rooms, books, and homework help for orphaned children, while also funding food for over 150 children in the Port Elizabeth area. In Nicaragua, we support the Center for Development in Central America (CDCA), which empowers communities in Ciudad Sandino through sustainable development. Through regular visits from CDCA's Sarah Junkin Woodard, we learn about Nicaraguan life and support local artisans by purchasing handmade crafts that share both their culture and their resilience.



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

**FALL CELEBRATION SUNDAY — October 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 10AM**

We give thanks for God's many blessings and our rich history of over 300 years.

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

**ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE — Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>–Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

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

**HOLY WEEK 2026**

- ♦ Maundy Thursday — April 2<sup>nd</sup>; Good Friday — April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ♦ Easter Sunday — April 5<sup>th</sup> | 10AM Worship

**KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — April 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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](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 - 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 SPOTLIGHTS

### **THIS AFTERNOON—Oct. 5: Blessing of the Animals at 4:00 PM**

Bring your animals (or a picture of them, their collar or even a stuffed animal) and we will ask for God's blessing on them. For safety: all animals must be controlled and kept **on leashes**; owners are responsible for clean-up after their pets. We will gather near the playground.

### **TONIGHT—Oct. 5: Unplugged: Abbey Road at 7:00 PM!**

Our coffeehouse series continues! Join us at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be covering songs from the Beatles' famous "Abbey Road" album. Our featured musical guests are:  
Keli Vale, singer & Nick Bucci, guitarist.

## 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.





# O for a World

372

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re-spects each oth - er's ways,  
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re-lieved,  
 3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
 4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.  
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
 where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a-chieved.  
 that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
 Tell all who mourn: out-casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
 where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

# Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)

F C Dm F7/C B $\flat$

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)

C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)

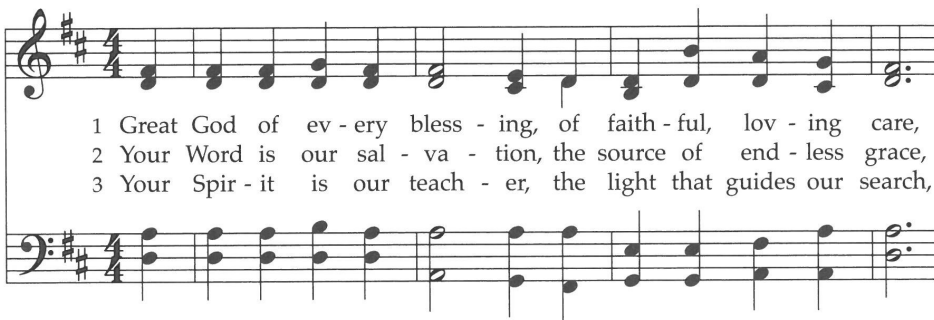
F/A B $\flat$  F/C C7 F B $\flat$  F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

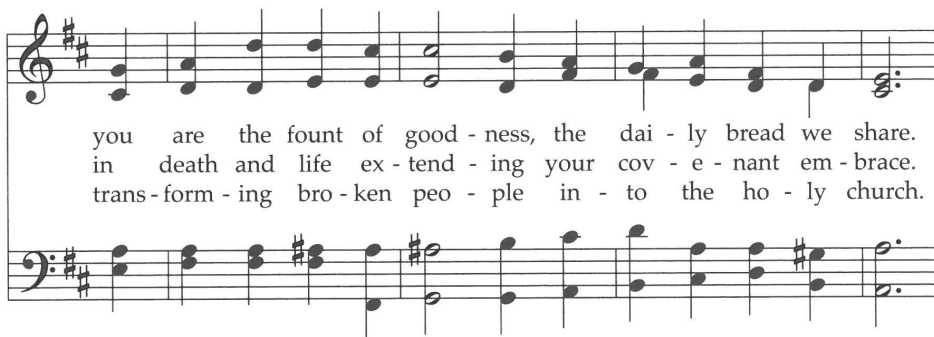
- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

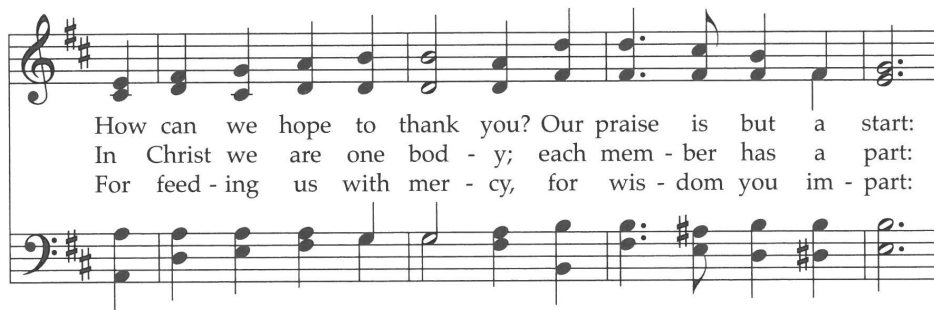
# 694 Great God of Every Blessing



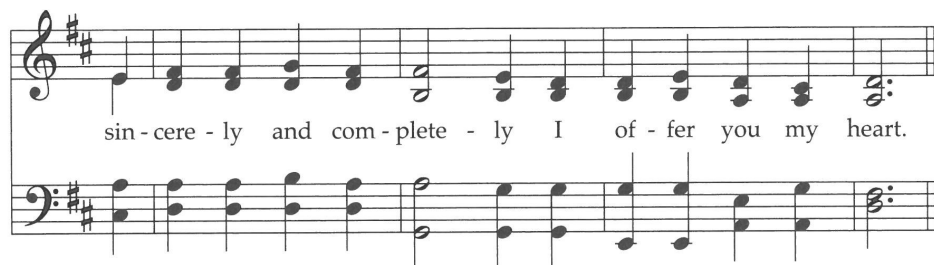
1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,  
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,  
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,



you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.  
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.  
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.



How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:  
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:  
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:



sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.