



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 / 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

(a silent prayer)

God of grace and mercy, as we await the Prince of Peace, we come to you with hearts yearning for the day when your peace reigns in the world. May your light dispel the darkness of discord, and may nations unite in the pursuit of harmony and justice. Inspire our leaders with wisdom and compassion that they may work for the well-being of all. Amen.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Micah 6:8)

One: God has told us what is good.

Many: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: God is good.

Many: All the time.

One: All the time!

Many: God is good. Let us worship God together!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 666

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

"Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and my King into the sanctuary. In front are the singers, after them the musicians; with them are ones playing tambourines... there is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them." (Psalm 68:24)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Good and gracious God, we can say you are good not because our lives are easy, but because you are faithful.

Many: Yet we confess that we do not always trust your goodness. We turn from what gives life toward what is smaller, quicker, and easier to control. We settle for lesser goods when we lose sight of what truly matters.

One: Forgive us, O God. Remind us again of this truth: that you judge it better to bring good out of evil than to allow no evil to exist.

Many: Reorder our loves. Turn us again toward your goodness. Through Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who leads us home. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, God's goodness comes near, meets us in our weakness, and does not let us go.

Many: Thanks be to God.

*SUNG RESPONSE

You Are Good

(cantor sings non-bolded text; congregation sings bold)

Lord, You are good and Your mercy endureth forever

Lord, You are good and Your mercy endureth forever

People from every nation and tongue from generation to generation

***We worship You, hallelujah, hallelujah
We worship You for who You are
We worship You, hallelujah, hallelujah
We worship You for who You are. You are good.***

***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 God Is So Good (sing twice)

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God’s so good to me.

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Samuel 12:20-25

SERMON It's All Good: State of the Church Rev. Dr. Phillips

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

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.



***SUNG RESPONSE** God Is So Good (sing twice)

God cares for me, God cares for me. God cares for me. God’s so good to me.

***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 our 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 table—where you have met us as we are and fed us with what we truly need. Having tasted your mercy and your faithfulness, send us now to walk in the good and right way: to serve you with our whole hearts, to remember what you have done, and to live with courage, gratitude, and care. Keep us faithful in the days ahead, for our good and for the good of the world you love. Amen.

*HYMN 612

We Praise You, O God

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Let There Be Peace on Earth (All are invited to sing)

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

POSTLUDE



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Chancel Choir, *Music Ministry*
Bob Kissell, *Usher Captain*
Linda Sopkanich, *Greeter*

Join us for refreshments & fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Lynn Rodden,
from Karen, Tim and Jean.

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.

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
- ◆ Resurrection Remembrance Service — April 5th | 9:30AM Worship
- ◆ 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.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY — September 6th, 2026 | 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 25th, 2026 | 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 15th, 2026 | 10AM

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

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2026

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

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. All are welcome, for Jesus gathers us together even as we divide ourselves by politics, denomination, or whatever labels the world puts on us. 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 and "The Arcaders" social group for GenX and Millennials. Details can be found at www.rcpc.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

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held immediately after the 10:00 a.m. worship service TODAY for the purpose of receiving the reports of the Staff, the Clerk of Session, Session Committees, the Board of Deacons and other church organizations and committees, receiving and acting upon the report of the Nominating Committee for the election of ruling elders, deacons and members of congregational committees, reviewing the 2026 operating budget, and any other business deemed appropriate for congregational consideration.

The annual Congregational meeting will be immediately followed by a short annual meeting of the Cemetery Corporation. All church members are members of the Cemetery Corporation also.

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.

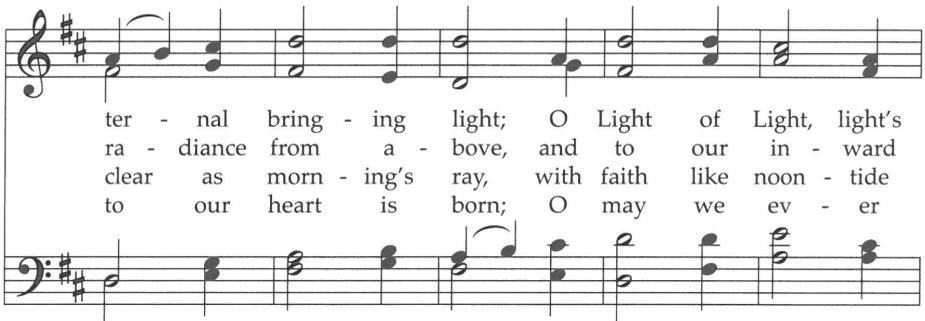
Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder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



O Splendor of God's Glory Bright 666



1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -
2 Come, Ho - ly Sun of heaven - ly love, rain down your
3 O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with thoughts as
4 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing morn, your im - age



ter - nal bring - ing light; O Light of Light, light's
ra - diance from a - bove, and to our in - ward
clear as morn - ing's ray, with faith like noon - tide
to our heart is born; O may we ev - er



liv - ing spring, true Day, all days il - lu - min - ing:
hearts con - vey the Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less ray.
shin - ing bright, our souls un - shad - owed by the night.
clear - ly view our Sav - ior and our God in you.

This morning hymn is based on a Latin text attributed to a 4th-century bishop. It weaves various images of Christ as Light with light-based descriptions of each day's passing. It is set to a dance-like tune from at least the 15th century that enhances the energy in the text.

Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
 F C Dm F7/C B^b



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^b F/C C7 F B^b F



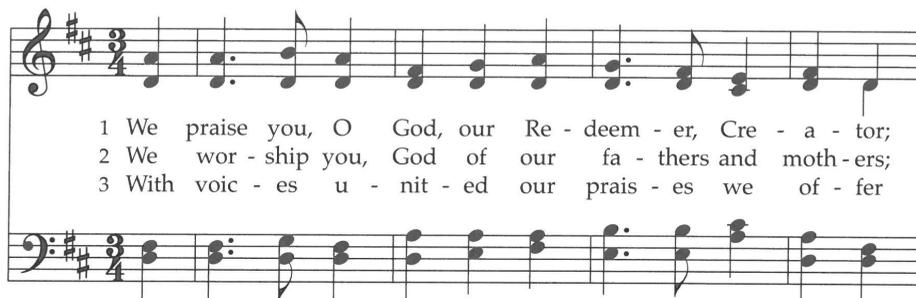
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 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...

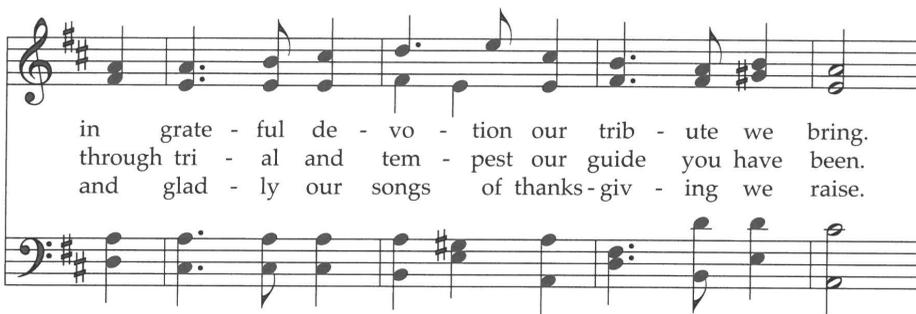
The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

We Praise You, O God

612



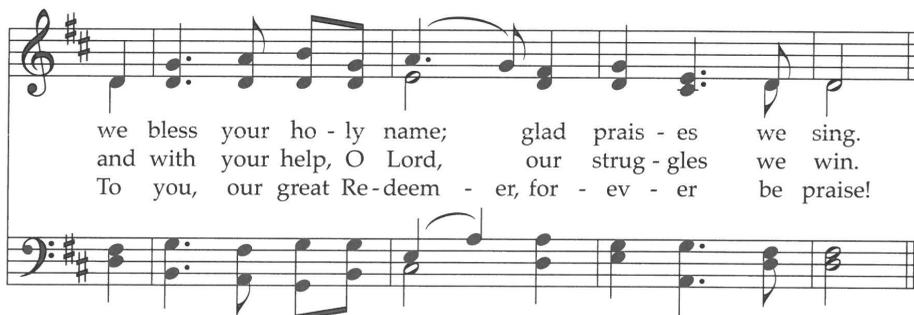
1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.