



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 / 10 AM



James Tissot's painting "Jesus Meets His Mother" (*Jésus rencontre sa mère*) (1886–1894) is an opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper. It portrays a poignant scene wherein Jesus, bearing the cross, encounters his mother, Mary, along his path to crucifixion. The setting is a bustling street filled with Roman soldiers, townspeople, and onlookers, each contributing to the chaotic and sorrowful atmosphere. Jesus is depicted in a state of suffering, having fallen to the ground while carrying the cross. His mother, Mary, extends her hands towards him, her face embodying deep anguish and compassion. Surrounding her are other figures enveloped in grief, while the soldiers and crowd exhibit a range of emotions from indifference to hostility. The architecture in the background suggests an ancient city, aligning with the historical context of the scene. Tissot's use of color and detail enriches the narrative, capturing the profound emotional and spiritual weight of this momentous encounter.

Brooklyn Museum, Accession Number 00.159.280 .

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)

Help me, dear Lord, to see my brother with the eyes of Christ, to hear my sister with the ears of Christ, to taste my neighbor's hunger with the mouth of Christ, to smell creation's beauty with the nose of Christ, to touch the world's pain with the hands of Christ, and to love life, each life, every life, with the heart of Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**



Sign-Up!

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Mission to Maine

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in the shadow of the cross, not to turn away, but to look with love.

Many: **We come to see what Jesus saw.**

One: From the cross, Jesus saw the city and the Temple, friends and strangers, faithful love and fierce opposition.

Many: **We come to see what Jesus saw.**

One: He saw us—and did not look away.

Many: **Come, let us see with him. Come, let us worship.**

*HYMN 4

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: From the cross, Jesus sees us as we are—not as we pretend to be, not as we wish to be, but as we truly are. Trusting in his mercy, and knowing we are already seen and loved, let us confess our sin together.

Many: **Jesus, from the cross you saw us clearly. You saw our fear and our pride, our compassion and our cruelty, our longing for life and our resistance to change. You saw how often we turn away—from suffering that unsettles us, from truth that calls us to repent, from love that demands something of us. We confess that we do not always want to see what you see. We protect ourselves instead of loving our neighbors. Forgive us, Lord. Give us eyes to see, hearts to love, and lives shaped by your mercy.**

(silence is kept)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news. From the cross, Jesus did not look away. He saw the world clearly—and loved it still.

Many: **What he saw, he loved. What he loved, he served. What he served, he redeemed.**

One: In Jesus Christ, we are seen, forgiven, and made new.

Many: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Come, Jesus, Come

Come, Jesus, come

We've been waiting so long for the ways You return

To heal every hurt and right every wrong

We need You right now, come and turn this around

Deep down I know this world needs some hope

Come, Jesus, come

*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 bear the sermon.

SUNG RESPONSE

Come, Jesus, Come

(see previous lyrics)

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 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

*SUNG RESPONSE In Christ Alone

***What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 183

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 19:25b-27

SERMON

What He Saw: Feeling Lucky

Rev. Dr. Phillips

SEND

*HYMN 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Charlie Hannagan & Festival Choir, *Music Ministry*

Bob Emmons, *Usher Captain*

Meredith Jones, *Greeter*

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

The flowers today are given in memory of Darden 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.

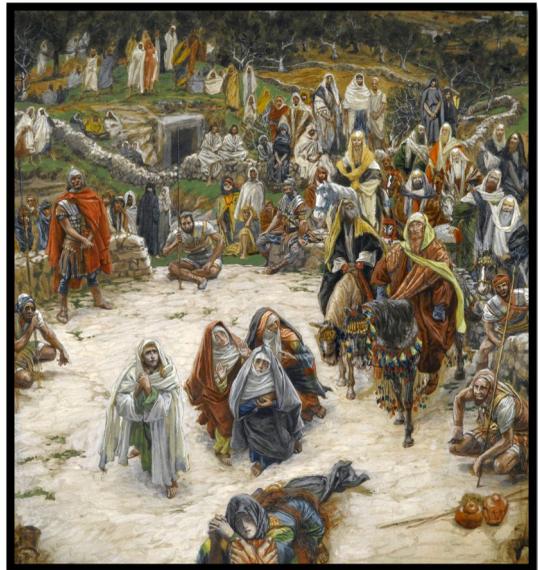


JAMES TISSOT, ARTIST OF THE SERIES “THE LIFE OF CHRIST”

Jacques Joseph Tissot (15 October 1836 – 8 August 1902), better known as James Tissot, was a French painter, illustrator, and caricaturist. He decided to pursue a career in art at a young age, coming to incorporate elements of realism, early Impressionism, and academic art into his work. He is best known for a variety of genre paintings of contemporary European high society produced during the peak of his career, which focused on the people and women's fashion of the Belle Époque and Victorian England, but he would also explore many medieval, biblical, and Japoniste subjects throughout his life.

In 1885 Tissot experienced a religious vision at the Church of St. Sulpice, leading him to revive his Catholic faith and spend the remainder of his life making paintings about biblical events. As part of this artistic effort Tissot traveled to the Middle East in 1886, 1889, and 1896 to make studies of its landscapes and cultures, which would come to distinguish his series from contemporary Biblical art through its “*considerable archaeological exactitude*” in striving for accuracy rather than religious emotion. His series of 365 gouache illustrations showing the life of Christ were shown to critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences. Tissot spent the last years of his life working on paintings of subjects from the Old Testament; although he never completed the series, he exhibited 80 of these paintings in Paris in 1901.

The theme for our Lenten Sermon Series (“What He Saw”; February 22-March 22) this year features James Tissot’s painting, **What Our Lord Saw from the Cross** (*Ce que voyait Notre-Seigneur sur la Croix*). This c. 1890 watercolor painting is unusual for its portrayal of the Crucifixion of Jesus from the perspective of Jesus on the cross, rather than featuring Christ at the center of the work. The scene shows witnesses, including Jesus' followers (the women and the disciple whom Jesus loved), participants, and bystanders; of Jesus' own body only the feet can be seen, at the bottom of the picture. The painting is part of the series The Life of Jesus Christ.



Selections from
**Jesus Christ
SUPERSTAR**



A SERVICE CHALLENGE BENEFIT CONCERT



MARCH 29 @ 7 PM, SANCTUARY

SET FREE \$1.3

Help Us Cancel Medical Debt for New Castle County Residents

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.

CAMP RED CLAY — 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.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

Pancake Breakfast: Next Sunday, March 22nd

We will hold our annual Mission to Maine Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. **Please purchase your ticket in Founders Hall**

TODAY:

\$10 per plate (adults) and \$5 per plate (youth/children).

For more Roots & Rays Service Challenge activities during this Lenten season, go to:

<https://www.rccpc.org/serve/>

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.



4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.



Based on an 18th-century German metrical version of a celebrated 5th-century Latin hymn, *Te Deum laudamus*, this abbreviated 19th-century English paraphrase is sung by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is set here to the tune composed and named for the German version.

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler 183



- 1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis - tress;
- 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's light;
- 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with me.
- 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not fear.



come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me in fright."
Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

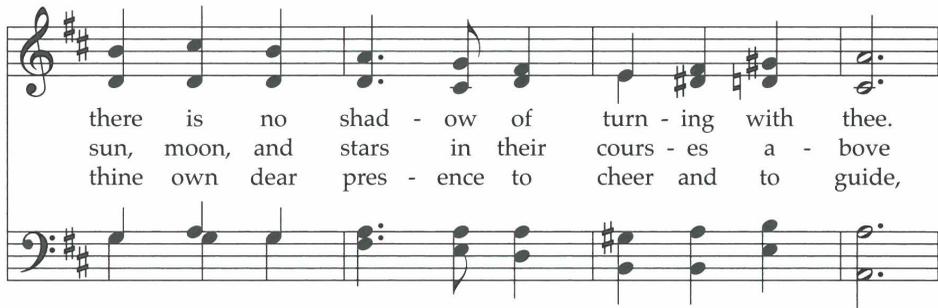
This paraphrase and expansion of Matthew 11:28–30 by a Canadian minister is structured so that the first three syllables of each stanza provide the hymn's skeleton and summary. The immediacy of the text is enhanced by the folksong-like setting later composed for it.

39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,



Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:



As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 러 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주