



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 22, 2026 / 10 AM



James Tissot's painting "The Raising of the Cross" (*L'élévation de la Croix*) (1886–1894) is an opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper. Tissot renders the technical elements of the Crucifixion with a profusion of unforgettable details intended to encourage viewers to contemplate the method of Christ's execution on a visceral level. Although Tissot follows celebrated artistic predecessors such as the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens in his depiction of the brute physical exertions required of those who raised the cross, he also adds further nuances to the visual tradition, depicting the elaborate system of ropes, poles, and scaffolding employed in the operation. Once in place, Tissot explains, the base of the cross would be set into a post hole and then reinforced with wedges to maintain its stability.

Brooklyn Museum, Accession Number 00.159.294.

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 fellowship 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

*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 54

Make a Joyful Noise to God! (Psalm 66)

*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 hear 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

Gethsemane

*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 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 27:27-31

SERMON

What He Saw: One Note Short

Rev. Dr. Phillips

SEND

*HYMN 300

We Are One in the Spirit

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Lauda, *Music Ministry*
Rick Marsey, *Usher Captain*
Linda Morgan, *Greeter*

Join us for our 2026 Mission to Maine Pancake Breakfast & fellowship
in Founders Hall following the postlude.

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God.



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.

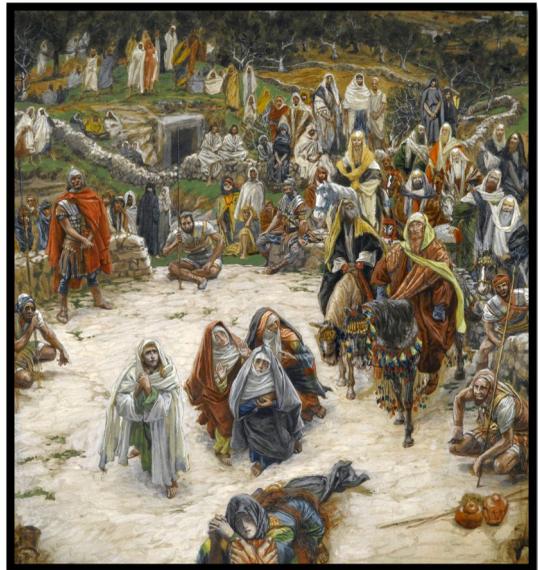


JAMES TISSOT, ARTIST OF THE SERIES “THE LIFE OF CHRIST”

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.



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

EASTER EGG HUNT

Next Sunday, March 29th, at 11:30 am!

Join us for fun in the Upper Meadow!
Children of all ages are invited!

For 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.



Make a Joyful Noise to God! 54

(Psalm 66)

1 Make a joy - ful noise to God! All cre - a - tion sings your praise!
2 Come and see what God has done, great the bless - ings to the just:
3 Bless the Lord, our ref - uge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes.

Great your won - ders here dis - played, un - ex - celled through - out our days.
walked the cho - sen through the sea, brought their en - e - mies to dust.
By whose jus - tice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt de - ferred.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same musical structure and key signature.

Glo - rious is your sa - cred name, a - ges old, yet still the same.
Let us lift a thank - ful voice for God's mer - cies, and re - joice!
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heav - en - ly home.

The third system concludes the piece with a final cadence in the treble staff and a sustained bass line in the bass staff.

This paraphrase of Psalm 66 maintains a corporate tone more suitable for congregational singing than does the original psalm, which moves to a personal narrative in its latter part. The reference to "all creation" is strengthened by the associations of the tune (see no. 14).

In the Cross of Christ I Glory 213

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, from the cross the ra - dianc
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no
 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred

sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.
 sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

Like Isaac Watts's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (nos. 223, 224), this hymn is a reflection on Galatians 6:14, but this text is more abstract and devotes no attention to the person hanging on the cross. The tune is named for a soloist in the composer's Connecticut choir.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.