



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, JULY 26, 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

(Iona Benediction Prayer)

The cross, we will take it. The bread, we will break it. The pain, we will bear it. The joy, we will share it. The Gospel, we will live it. The love, we will give it. The light, we will cherish it. The darkness, God shall perish it!

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.



Sign-Up!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Psalm 10)

One: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Many: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before God with joyful songs.

One: Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us and we are God's children;

Many: We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts of the Lord with praise;

Many: Give thanks to God and praise God's name.

One: For the Lord is good and God's love endures forever;

Many: God's faithfulness continues through all generations. Let us worship God!

*HYMN 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart or our neighbors as ourselves. We humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Many: Believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

(vs. 1)

*Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make
The path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round
Then leads beside still waters the road where faith is found.*

*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

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

(vs. 2)

***Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way
Your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound,
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.***

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

I Will Sing New Songs

(Dvořák)

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

***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.***

***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 OF DEDICATION

HYMN 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 14:10-31

MUSICAL OFFERING

Come Ye Blessed

Scott

SERMON

Our Odyssey: Crossing the Threshold

Kim Eppheimer

SEND

*HYMN 65

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION I Love to Tell the Story

*I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*



We welcome Red Clay's very own Kim Eppehimer to the pulpit this morning! Kim Eppehimer is the Chief Executive Officer of One Big House, where she leads Friendship House and Limen Recovery + Wellness in



building pathways that support people experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and other behavioral health challenges. Her work is rooted in the belief that every person is created with inherent dignity and deserves the opportunity to heal, find stability, and thrive.

Kim holds a master's degree in Financial Accounting, along with certificates in Nonprofit Management and Theology & Ministry. She is passionate about connecting faith with everyday life and helping others see God's presence among those too often overlooked. She has been a member of RCCPC since 2010, alongside her husband, Mike, their two sons, Sean and Marshall, and their dogs, Lucy and Georgia Bean. She believes that faith is rarely about standing still—it is an epic journey that challenges us, changes us, and calls us to keep moving forward.

Thanks to today's worship participants:

Barbara Vanderkraats, *Music Ministry*

Brandon Wallace, *Usher Captain*

Sandy Dudley, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Wilametta Norris
on the anniversary of her birthday, from Ed & Mary Norris.

Join us for refreshments & 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.

HOMEcomings SUNDAY — September 13th, 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

ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE — February –March, 2027

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

HOLY WEEK 2027

- ◆ Maundy Thursday — March 25th ; Good Friday — March 26th
- ◆ Resurrection Remembrance Service — March 28th | 9:30AM Worship
- ◆ Easter Sunday — March 28th | 10AM Worship

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — May 2027 | 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 2027 | 10AM

Join us in the back meadow for worship and our annual picnic.

CAMP RED CLAY — July 2027 | 9AM-12PM

Kids (K-5th grade) can attend one of our three Camp Red Clays! More info coming soon.

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. 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" 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

MISSION TO MAINE TRIP

(TODAY) July 26-August 1

We're continuing our annual tradition of a summer mission trip, traveling to Pastor Nate's home state to partner with Mission at the Eastward in Farmington, Maine. Open to youth & adults, this trip blends home repair, community outreach, shared meals and devotions! **Please keep this group in your prayers this week as they travel, and dedicate time to play, pray and connect while serving together.**



RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

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

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*
David Newby, *Youth Coordinator* ❖ Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director* ❖ Sofia Martin, *Nursery Support*
Delaney Christel & Josephine DeCaire, *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* ❖ Christine Fischer, *Personnel Chair*
Mark Cozine, *Home Chair* ❖ John Gast, *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

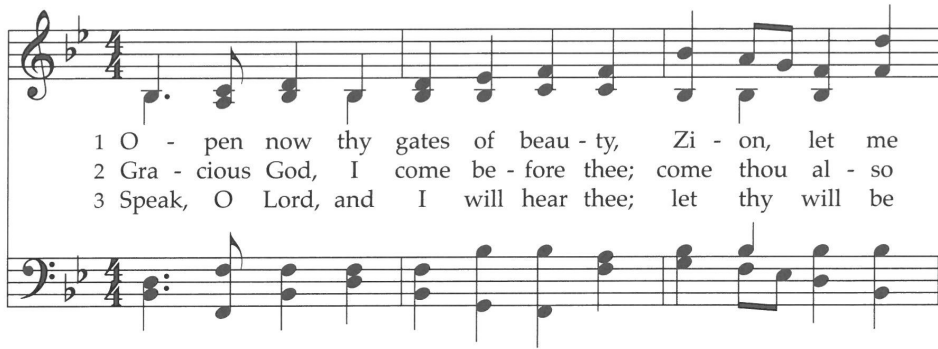
Our church has "roots" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope 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.



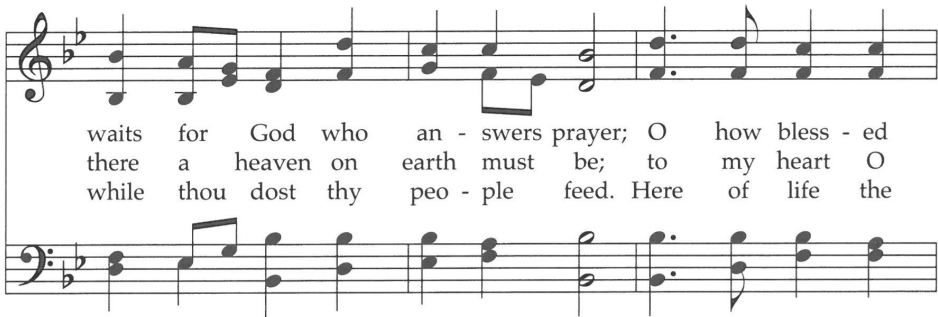
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 403



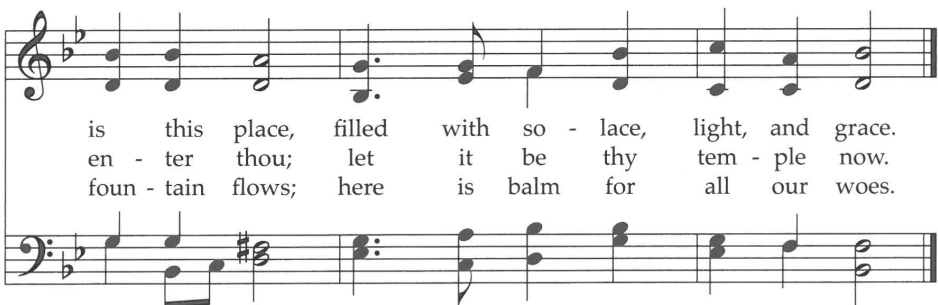
1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
 3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be



en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
 done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,



waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
 there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
 while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
 en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
 foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

In the first stanza "Zion" is not a general synonym for Jerusalem but a reference to the part of the city where the Temple stood. It prepares the way for the interior temple of the heart in stanza two. The pre-existing tune is by a prominent German Reformed hymnwriter.

839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion,
 rap-ture now burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing,
 Sav-ior am hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing,

pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 bring from a-bove, ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto-ry; this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior

Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

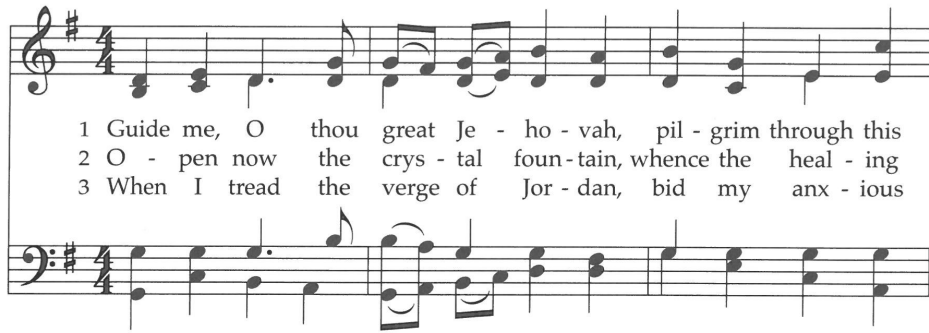
all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

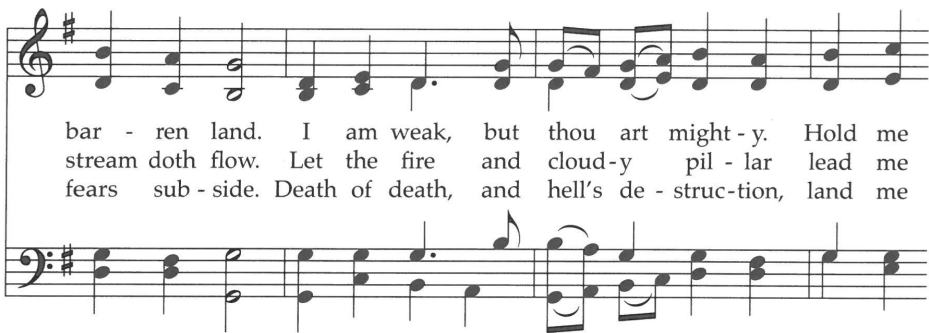
KOREAN

- 1 예수를 내가 주로 믿어
성령과 피로써 거듭나니
이세상에서 내 영혼이
하늘의 영광 누리도다
후렴 이것이 나의 간증이요
이것이 나의 찬송일세
나사는 동안 끊임없이
예수 내 구주 찬송하리
- 2 온전히 주께 맡긴 내영
온전한 기쁨을 누리면서
자비와 사랑 속삭이는
하늘의 천사 보리로다 후렴
- 3 예수께 맡긴 나의 영혼
주안에 복되고 평안하니
세상도 없고 나도 없고
사랑의 주만 보이도다 후렴

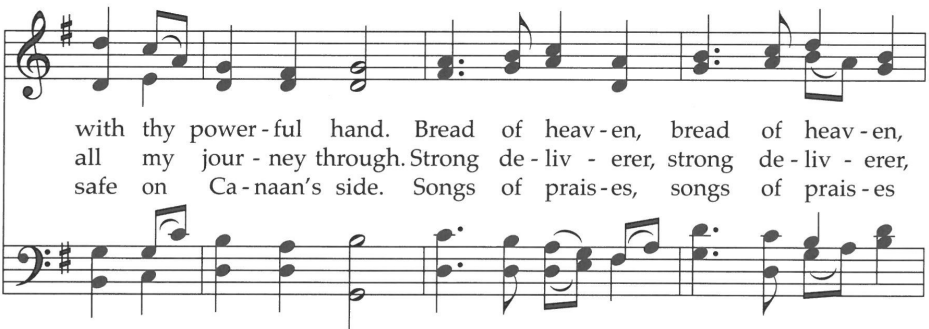
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



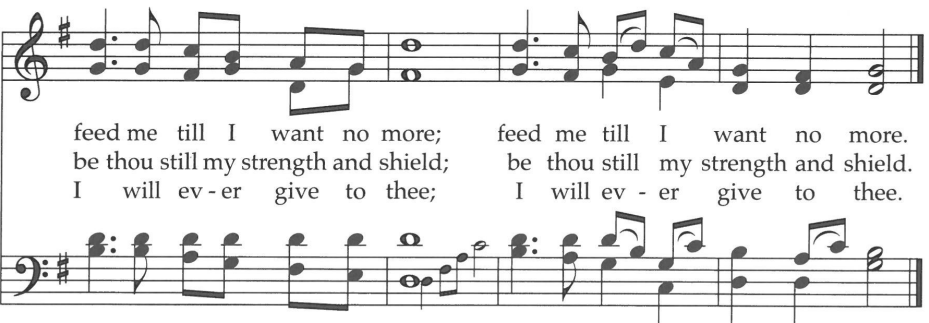
1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc-tion, land me



with thy power-ful hand. Bread of heav-en, bread of heav-en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais-es, songs of prais-es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.