



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 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**

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Many: Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

One: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Many: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands - O prosper the work of our hands!

One: Come, people of God, let us worship the God of all generations!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

"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**

Many: Mighty God, we give you thanks that by your power you created us, and by your goodness you call us to be your people. We confess we have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends in Christ, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Many: Thanks be to God.

***SUNG RESPONSE Goodness of God**

*All my life You have been faithful, all my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God*

*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

Goodness of God

***All my life You have been faithful, all my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God***

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

*Blake Christine McMillan,
daughter of Colin John McMillan & Laura Jean Cooney McMillan*

HYMN 482, vs. 1

Baptized in Water

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.***

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & BAPTISM

HYMN 482, vss. 2,3

Baptized in Water

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.***

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.***

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

**Many: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ’s church
to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15:11-24

SERMON

Our Odyssey: The Puppeteer

Rev. Dr. Phillips

HYMN 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

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

Love's Greeting

Elgar

*SUNG 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

SEND

COMMISSIONING OF BEN ANDREWS FOR SEMINARY

*HYMN 295

Go to the World!

*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 are grateful to be joined today by Associate Presbyter for Missional Ministries Rev. Sarah Craven. Sarah serves the New Castle Presbytery in these broad areas of ministry: leading & coordinating a Presbytery-wide ministry with youth and young adults; promoting & encouraging peace and justice ministries locally, regionally, nationally and internationally; and empowering those discerning a call to pastoral ministry.



Also present today for the laying on of hands are the Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore (former RCCPC Parish Associate), the Rev. Neta Lindsay Pringle (former RCCPC Transitional Pastor), the Rev. Emily Schwenker (current RCCPC Parish Associate) and the Rev. George Antonakos (retired Presbyterian pastor & uncle to Deena Andrews!).

Thanks to today's worship participants:

Deena Andrews, *Music Ministry*
Rick Marsey, *Usher Captain*; Hank Smithies, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Mary Brunt, mother of Catherine Shafer, from Ray & Catherine Shafer.

Join us for refreshments & fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude. We will be enjoying our summer ice cream social, Sundae Sunday! Complimentary sundaes with all the trimmings of your choice for EVERYONE!

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 & youth ministry kick offs.

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

Sunday, August 30 @ 10 AM: The Road to Emmaus

Come hear our
Director of
Community Life,
Rachele Gilmore,
preach on Luke 24:13
-35, as we conclude
"Our Odyssey"—the
RCCPC Summer
Sermon Series.



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

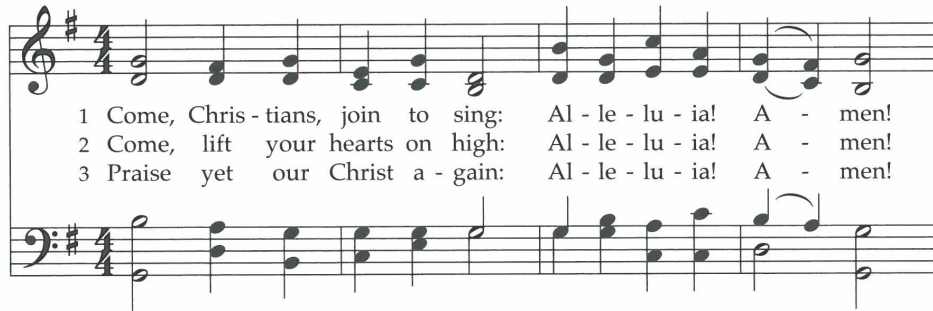
Our church has "roots" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope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

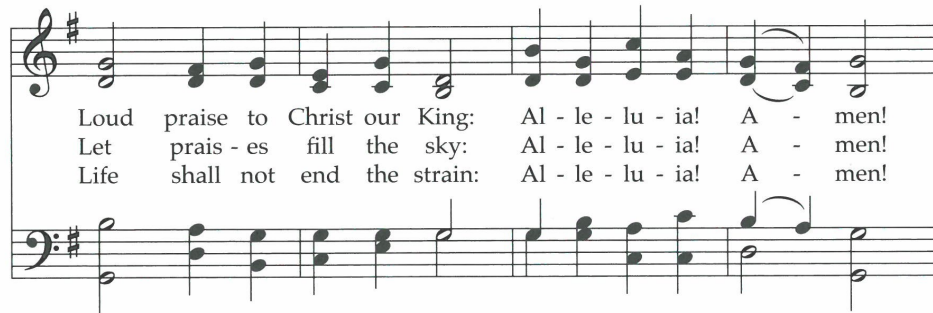
Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder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



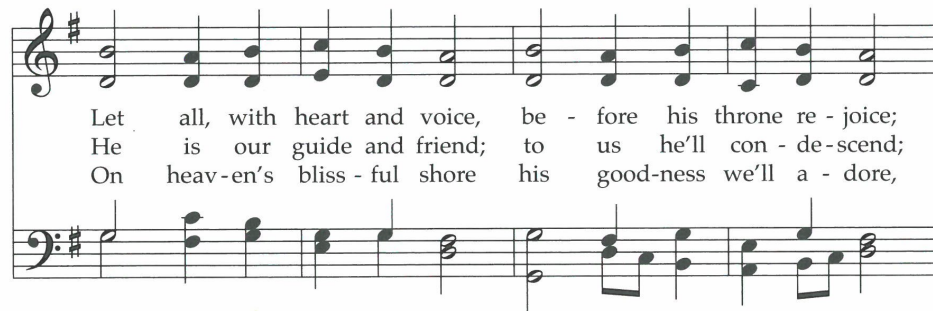
267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing



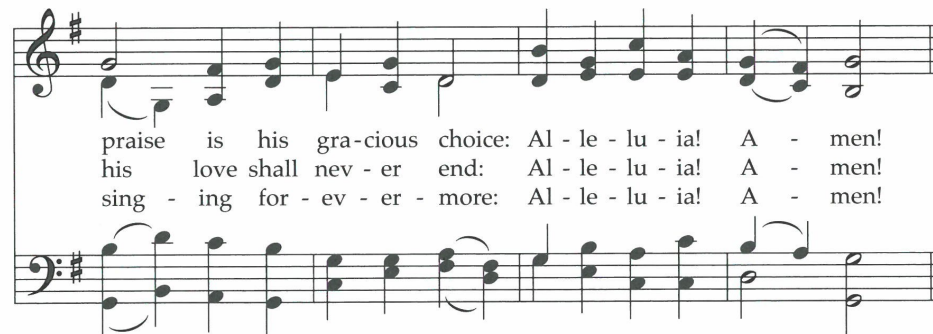
1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,



praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in




right - teous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



Refrain



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



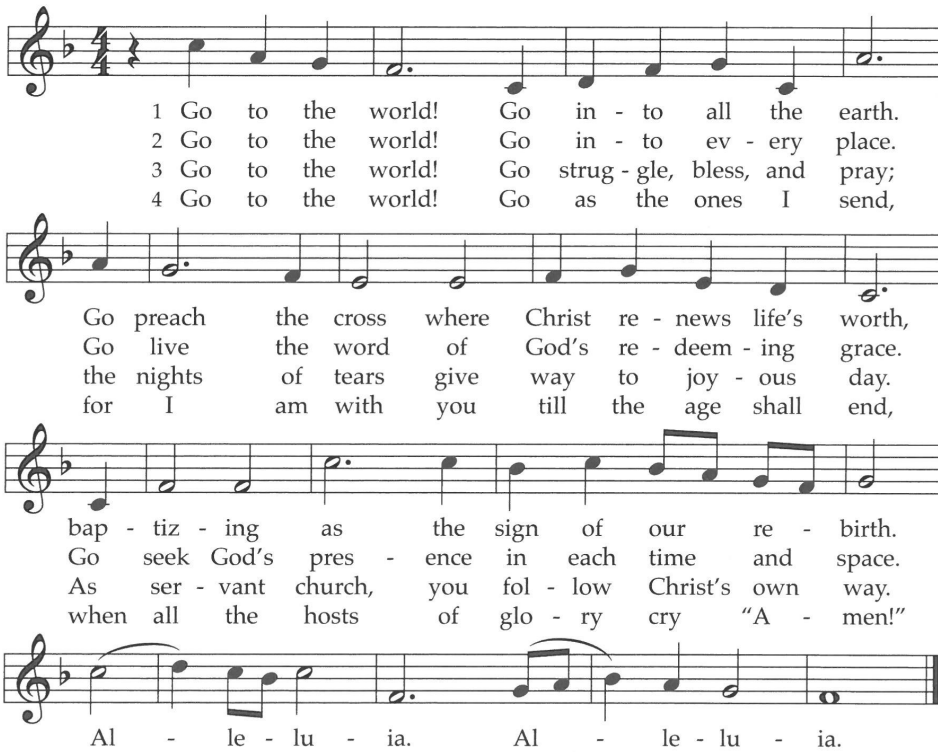

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.



This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24–27 / Luke 6:47–49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.

Go to the World!

295



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19–20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.