



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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.

Today's service is inspired by:

The courage, sacrifice, and unwavering service of first responders as we remember the 25th anniversary of September 11. We give thanks for those who answer the call to serve, remember those whose lives were forever changed, and find hope in God's enduring presence and promise.

GATHER



LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

(Universal Prayer for Peace from the Iona Community)

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our lives, our world, our universe.
Peace, peace, peace.

PRELUDE

TWENTY-FIVE BELL TOLLS

As worship begins today, twenty-five bell tolls mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. May each toll call us to remembrance, gratitude, and prayer for all who continue to serve our communities with courage and compassion.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**



Sign-Up!

RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDERS & THEIR FAMILIES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 27:1–8)

One: The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

Many: **The Lord is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?**

One: For he will hide us in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal us under the cover of his tent; he will set us high on a rock.

Many: **Hear us, O Lord, when we cry aloud, be gracious to us and answer us!**

One: Come, let us seek God's face together.

Many: **Your face, Lord, do we seek. Let us worship God!**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 1 **Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!**

"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 (based on Isaiah 58, Micah 6:8, Luke 10, and James 2)

One: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together.

All: **Merciful God, you have called us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Yet we confess that we often look away when others are in need. We choose comfort over compassion. We seek safety more than service. Forgive us.**

Give us courage to love our neighbors. Give us wisdom to seek peace. Give us faith to trust you in every circumstance. Make us instruments of your mercy, following Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, and who gave his life for the life of the world. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(John 15:13; Romans 8:1)

One: Hear the good news. Jesus says, “*Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*” The One who gave himself for us does not condemn us, but forgives us, restores us, and sends us into the world to love as we have been loved. Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel.

Many: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

*SUNG RESPONSE Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

(vs. 1)

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

*This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

*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 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

(vs. 2)

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

*This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

PRAYER

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF 9/11/2001

PRESENTATIONS

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.



*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 340

This is My Song

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

MUSICAL OFFERING How Firm A Foundation

SERMON Light in the Darkness: Then, Now, and Always

Rev. Brad Martin

“We Remember Them”

*In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.*

*In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.*

—Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

SEND

*HYMN 649 **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

*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.*



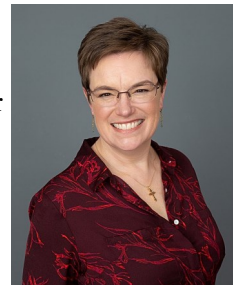
We are grateful to have The Rev. Brad Martin preaching today; he was last visiting with us in March 2026! Brad Martin was born and raised on a farm near Kittanning in western PA. He is a graduate of Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA; he earned a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1984 and a Master of Theology in 1996. Brad was appointed as Chaplain of the Wilmington Fire Department in 1985. In moving to Wilmington, Brad first served as Associate Pastor of the First and Central Presbyterian Church and then as Interim Pastor of the New Castle Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Barb, were called to Trinity Presbyterian Church in 1991 where they served for 33 years until retiring in June of 2024. Through retirement, Brad continues in ministry with the Wilmington Fire Department, and he enjoys working at McCreary & Harra.



Christopher Coons is a Democratic U.S. Senator representing Delaware, first elected in 2010. Chris is focused on working across the aisle to get things done for the people of his state. Raised in Hockessin, Chris grew up attending Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church and was an ordained elder with West Presbyterian Church. He is one of only three senators with a divinity degree, and he has preached at houses of worship across Delaware. Chris is a graduate of Amherst College with a B.A. in Chemistry and Political Science.

He earned his law degree from Yale Law School and holds a Master's in Ethics from Yale Divinity School. Chris also studied at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. A longtime New Castle County resident, he lives in Wilmington with his wife, Annie. They have three children.

The Rev. Cindy Kohlmann is the Connectional Presbyter & Stated Clerk for New Castle Presbytery. She has previously served as pastor for two congregations and resource presbyter for the Presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England. From 2018-2020, she also had the honor to serve as Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly of the PC(USA).



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Festival Choir, *Music Ministry*
Nancy James, *Usher Captain*
Jack & Sallie Akester, *Greeters*
Paul Bazzoli, *Liturgist*

The flowers today are given by Carolyn & Robert Diehl, whose brother,
Michael Diehl,
was killed on September 11, 2001.



Join us for refreshments & fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude.
Also, special thanks to Paul & Luke Bazzoli and the Delaware State police;
please visit them outside on Red Clay Way and in the meadow.

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 CHURCH



Announcing... our New Fall Sermon Series

JOSHUA

Be Strong & Courageous

Homecoming Sunday (Sept. 13):

Outdoor worship in the upper meadow with communion; afterwards, bounce house, Kona Ice, soft pretzels, & fellowship!



Sept. 13 (7 PM): Unplugged Coffeehouse
"Greatest Hits Series"--the 60's!

Sept. 15 (1-5 PM): Open Gym

Sept. 20 (11:30 AM): Noonday Concert
"Hymn Sing"

Sept. 20 (5:30-7:30 PM):
Wayfarers Youth Group
(6th-12th graders) begins

Sept. 27 (11 AM): Children's Choir
(PreK-5th grade) and ORFF Ensemble
(middle schoolers) begin;
Recess at Red Clay
(kids & families on the playground)

Join us!



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.

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.



1 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Descant

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,

2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

ho - ly, Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.

cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;

though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,

All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Much of the imagery of this hymn comes from Revelation 4:2–11, which its author, an Anglican bishop, knew as a reading appointed for Trinity Sunday. The tune, written specifically for this text, reinforces the Trinitarian theme by strong dependence on the D-major triad.

ho - - - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

SPANISH

- 1 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Señor omnipotente,
siempre el labio mío loores te dará.
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Te adoro reverente,
Dios en tres personas, bendita Trinidad.
- 2 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La inmensa muchedumbre
de ángeles que cumplen tu santa voluntad,
ante ti se postra, bañada de tu lumbre,
ante ti que has sido, que eres y serás.
- 3 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Por más que estés velado
e imposible sea tu gloria contemplar,
santo tú eres sólo y nada hay a tu lado,
en poder perfecto, pureza y caridad.
- 4 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La gloria de tu nombre
vemos en tus obras, en cielo, tierra y mar.
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La humanidad te adore,
Dios en tres personas, bendita Trinidad.

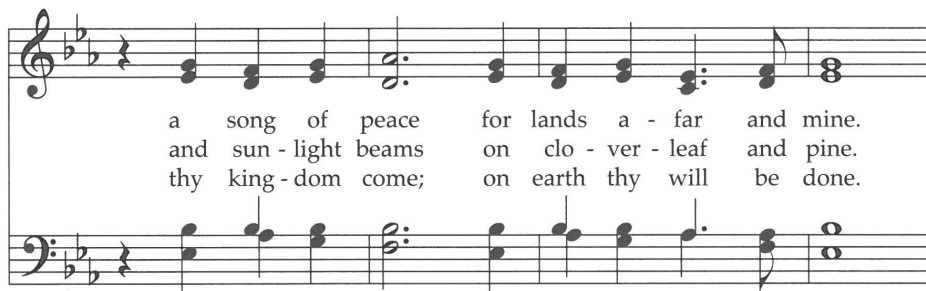
KOREAN

- 1 거룩거룩거룩 전능하신 주여
이른아침우리주를 찬송합니다
거룩거룩거룩 자비하신 주여
성삼위일체 우리주로다
- 2 거룩거룩거룩 주의보좌 앞에
모든성도 금면류관 벗어드리네
천군천사 모두주께 굴복하니
영원히 위에 계신 주로다
- 3 거룩거룩거룩 주의 빛난 영광
모든죄인 눈어두워 보지못하네
거룩하신 이가 주님밖에 뉘뇨
권능과사랑 온전하셔라
- 4 거룩거룩거룩 전능하신 주여
천지만물 주의이름 찬송합니다
거룩거룩거룩 자비하신 주여
성삼위일체 우리주로다

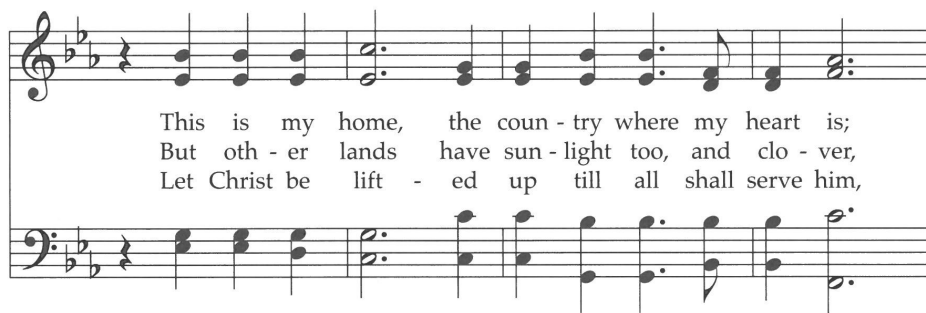
This Is My Song



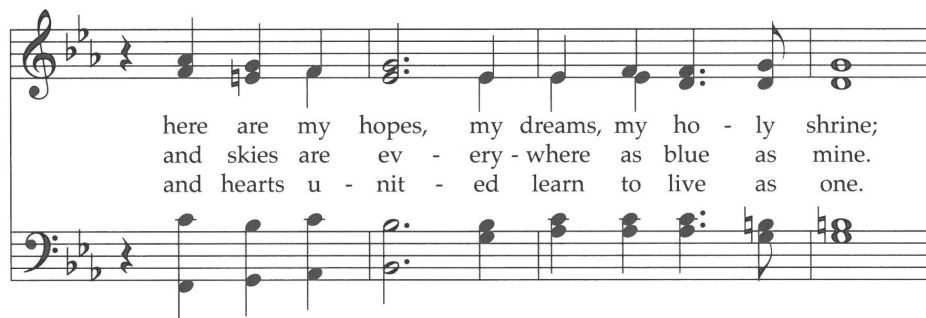
1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhóníígo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshúitinigí,
 lah yóóiiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'íí da nt'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.