



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 27, 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

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**



Sign-Up!

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

***Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho,
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, And the walls came tumbling down!***

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Linda Neel

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Joshua 1:9; 24:15)

One: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed.
Many: For the Lord our God is with us wherever we go.
One: Choose this day whom you will serve.
Many: As for us and our house, we will serve the Lord.
One: Remember what God has done, and trust where God will lead.
Many: With courage and hope, let us worship God.

*HYMN 327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Joshua 1:5–9; 24:14–15)

Many: Faithful God, you promise to be with us wherever we go, yet we are often afraid to follow where you lead. We forget what you have done, cling to what is familiar, and give our hearts to lesser things. Forgive us when our courage fails and when our choices lead us away from you. Remind us of your faithfulness. Give us courage for the road ahead, and teach us again to serve you with all our heart and all our life. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Joshua 1:5; Matthew 1:21; 28:20)

One: Hear the good news: the God who promised Joshua, “I will be with you,” is faithful still. In Jesus Christ, God has come near—to save, forgive, and lead us forward. Friends, believe the good news:
Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*SUNG RESPONSE The Lord Is My Salvation (congregation joins on cue)



Who is like the Lord our God? Strong to save, faith- ful in love. My



debt is paid and the vic'try won: The Lord is my sal-va - tion.

*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

The Lord Is My Salvation

(see previous)

PRAYER

COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN LEADER

Martha Parvis

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 Bless the Lord (10,000 Reasons)

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joshua 3:14–17

MUSICAL OFFERING

SERMON

Joshua: Pick Me Up

Rev. Dr. Phillips

SEND

*HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

*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.*

POSTLUDE



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Festival Choir, *Music Ministry*

Lynn Moffett, Linda Reisor, Suzanne Courter-Jann, *Liturgists*

Van Sedita, *Usher Captain*

Sue Emmons, Eric Sanford, *Deacon Ushers*

Susan Leininger and Carol Hiller, *Stephen Minister & Deacon Greeters*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Jim Ahrens,
from his wife, Gail.



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.

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.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY — September 2027 | 10AM

We mark our return to regular church programming with the start of our fall sermon series and Sunday School & youth ministry kick offs.

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, October 4: Lunch & Learn with Dr. Brennan Breed

Join us for a Lunch & Learn with Dr. Brennan Breed, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary as we take a closer look at the story of Jericho in Joshua 6---one of the Bible's most memorable & most difficult stories. Brennan will help us explore questions about violence in the Old Testament, what these ancient texts are trying to say about God, and how Christians can read them faithfully today. Bring your questions and your appetite to Fellowship Hall from ~11:30 AM til 1:00 PM! Lunch provided, but registration requested.

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*

Jamie Russell, *Director of Children & Youth Ministries*

Barbara Vanderkraats, *Pastoral Care Coordinator* ♦ Ben Andrews, *Seminary Resident*

David Newby, *Youth Coordinator* ♦ Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director*

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, A. Bloom, D. Howarth, *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.

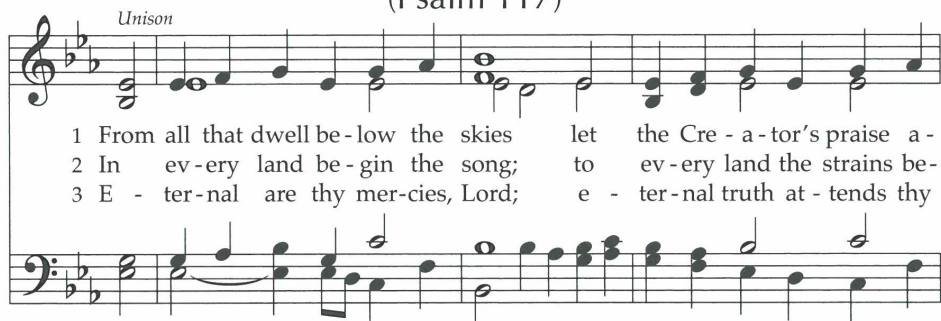
Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder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



327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

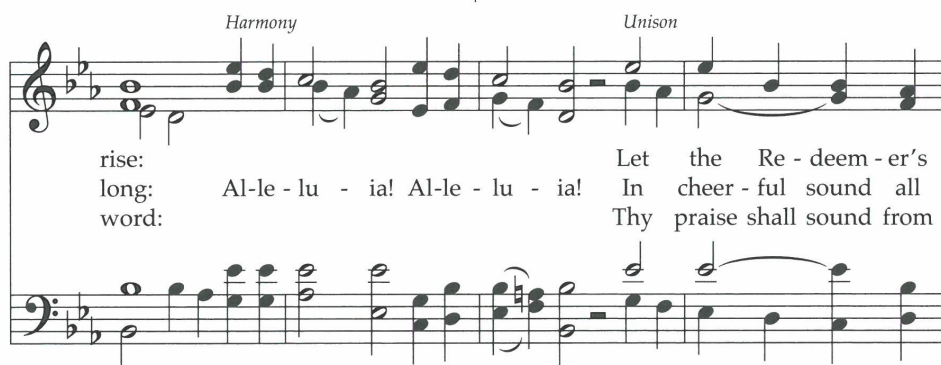
(Psalm 117)

Unison



1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -
3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

Harmony *Unison*



rise: Let the Re - deem - er's
long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
word: Thy praise shall sound from



name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Harmony



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Watts's paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals have created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn. Perhaps the best solution is found by adding Alleluias, as this tune invites.

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

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

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

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.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.