



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023 at 8 PM

Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
500 McKennans Church Road, Wilmington DE
(302) 998-0434; www.rccpc.org



Rooted in Love, Lighting the Way

Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home!

Please visit the welcome cart in the Narthex to learn more about our community.

GATHER

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

MUSICAL OFFERING The Coventry Carol

*CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

One:	Hope is:
Many:	Trusting that there is light, even in the dark.
One:	Peace is:
Many:	The wolf lying down with the lamb.
One:	Joy is:
Many:	Contagious sounds of Alleluia.
One:	Love is:
Many:	Unquenchable, never-ending, born in a manger, here today.

One: Christmas is:
Many: A love song to the world; the light that shines in the darkness.
One: Let us make a joyful noise! Let us worship God.

***CAROL Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

One: Let us pray. We welcome your presence now with the lighting of this
candle whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with
the glow of hope.

Many: Amen.

***CAROL Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25

MUSICAL OFFERING Star Carol

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-14

CAROL In the Bleak Midwinter

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

This Christmas Eve, all cash offerings put in the plate will go directly to the Roots & Rays Fund, which will support our January 7th Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. RAH sends out millions of meals every year to children in food insecure countries around the world. We hope you will give generously tonight and consider joining us for the event after worship on January 7.



MUSICAL OFFERING Away in a Manger

HOMILY Let Us Ring Bells Phillips

MUSICAL OFFERING O Holy Night

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Many: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

One: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: Renew our lives by your presence.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation: Release all into your promised freedom.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem: May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations: Fulfill our desires in you.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: may the whole world live in peace and justice.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

*[*Moment for silent prayer*]*

One: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, and who taught us to pray, saying,

**Many: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES

(The pastors will share the light from the Christ candle with people seated near the end of the pew. Please tilt the unlighted candle towards the lit candle to ensure safety.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Cathedral Pines

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-5,14

*CAROL

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Many: Good and gracious Father, whose glory is sung in the highest
heaven, and whose peace is offered to a hurt and broken world:
Fill us this day with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
that all our thoughts and words and deeds may be acceptable
in your sight, and all our lives bring honor to your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*CAROL

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

(Please extinguish your candles during the organ introduction.)

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"



Thanks to this evening's worship participants:

Festival Choir with Dinyar Vania and Barbara Vanderkraats, *soloists*

Deena Andrews, *violinist*

Jessie Reagen Mann, *cellist*

Lynn Moffett, *flutist*

Lois Galinat, *Usher Captain*

Ellen Hinrichs, *Greeter*

Tonight's soloists are brought to you through gifts from
the Naylor and Music Memorial funds.

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.

To learn more, check out the church website at www.rccpc.org for a calendar of events and for more on the history and other information about our church!



Red Clay Creek Presbyterian invites you
to its *Signature Services* during the coming year.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2023

- ◆ Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 3PM
- ◆ Holy Night Service with Candlelight | 8PM
- ◆ Candlelight | 11PM

JANUARY SERVICE CHALLENGE 2024

A month-long service effort that directs our intention to the needs of our community at the beginning of every year.

HOLY WEEK 2024

- ◆ Palm Sunday — March 24th | 10AM
- ◆ Maundy Thursday — March 28th | 7PM
- ◆ Good Friday — March 29th | 12PM
- ◆ Easter Sunday — March 31st | 10AM

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — April 21st, 2024 | 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 2nd, 2024 | 10AM

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

HOMEcoming SUNDAY — September 8th, 2024 | 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 27th, 2024 | 10AM

A joyous worship service where we give Bibles to our 3rd graders and dedicate our pledges, followed by outdoor trunk-or-treating and a flag football game.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY — November 17th, 2024 | 10AM

We give thanks for God's many blessings and the rich history of over 300 years.

RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

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

Rev. Emily Schwenker, *Parish Associate*

Jeffrey Miller, *Director of Music*

Barbara Vanderkaats, *Assistant Director of Choral Music*

Deena Andrews, *Assistant Director of Instrumental Music and Children's Choir Director*

Lisa Nichols, *Bell Choir Director*

Rachele Gilmore, *Director of Community Life*

Ben Andrews, *Director of Christian Formation*

Jamie Russell, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director* ♦ Shelby Beattie, *Sunday School Teacher* ♦ Sofia Martin, *Nursery Support*

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*

Sandy Sarjeant, *Clerk of Session* ♦ Sue Gleason, *Deacon Moderator*

Geoff and Pam Meyer, *Belong Chairs* ♦ Marcia Kelly, *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*

Anne Ceres, *Community Partners*

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.



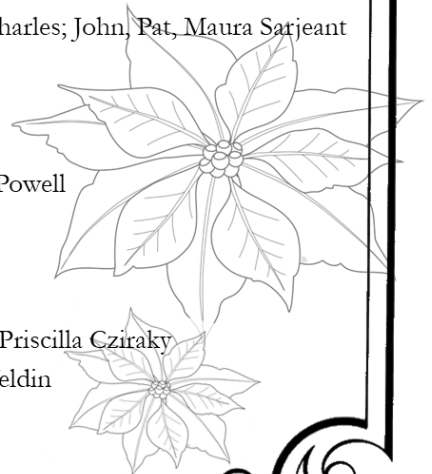
The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by the following:

From:

Allen Leonhard
Alyce Graham Stiles
Alyce Graham Stiles
Alyce Graham Stiles
Ann Houseman
Arlene M. Thompson
Beryl
Bob & Mimi Rufe and family
Carolyn Diehl
Carolyn Geshner Diehl
Chris, Jared, Matt & family
Daughters, Christine & Cindy
Debbie Wersinger
Diane Freed
Dianne Taylor Whittaker
Dianne Whittaker
Gail Ahrens
Gail Ahrens
Geoff & Pam Meyer
Jacqui Kolle
Jane Wood
Joe & Sandy Sarjeant
John & Madelyn Haggerty
Jon & Ginnie Cottrell
Joyce, Pam, Heather, Stephanie & Lily
Linda Morgan
Lois & Brian Galinat
Lorraine Ambrogio Gilmore
Lynn & Carolyn
Mark & Amy Cziraky
Mary Jane Weldin
Mom
Nate, Ari, Grace, Lily, Max
& Lucy Phillips

In Memory Of:

Pamela Leonhard
Alyce DeBoer
Harold DeBoer
Joan Hartzler
Evan Houseman
My Husband, Leon L. Thompson
Fraser Bouck
John Jacob Rufe
Judy, Kathleen & Michael Diehl
Glenn, Nancy & Robert Geshner
Bill Long
Chris & Pat Senft
My father, James A. Hunter
Herbert & Elizabeth Freed
My parents Marylou & James Taylor
My siblings, Stephen & Patricia Taylor
Jim Ahrens
Wanda & James Corrigan
Our parents
Joseph Fedena, my Dad
My sister, Phyllis Grobert
Lee, Blanche, Ken Charles; John, Pat, Maura Sarjeant
Kenny Haggerty
Our parents
Roger McClellan
Wilson & Charlotte Powell
Jeanette Smith
Joseph Ambrogio
Tricia & Joe
Our parents, Ron & Priscilla Cziraky
My husband, Paul Weldin
Steven Yamazaki
Gary Buzzell



The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by the following:

From:

Noah, Bruce & Jane Spencer
Norman Carlson
Peggy K. Germain
Ray & Mim Krout
Rich & Debbie Behling
Steve Ross
Susan Reamer
The Brown & Kissell Families
The Family
The Gamble Family
Rev. Emily Schwenker
The Rodden/Caldas Family
The Rodden/Caldas Family
Tosh & Family
Wife, Judy Krein, & Family

From:

Brandon & Diane Wallace
Dad (Dave) & Patricia Christel
Deborah McNesby
John & Susan Welsh
Mark & Amy Cziraky
Mark & Amy Cziraky
Mark Carlson
Norman Carlson
The Christel Family

To the Glory of God:

Barbara Fox
Bill & Kathy Ciabattoni
Dave & Mary Young
Ellen Hinrichs

In Memory Of:

Daughter & mom, Melissa Spencer
Janice Carlson
Bill Keay
Daryl Hougnon
Our parents
My parents, Vance & Eleanor Ross
Doris & Bill Green
Margaret K. Kissell
Stephen Armstrong, Sr.
Joan Brooks
Loved Ones
Darden Rodden
Oma Fox
Bob & Jodi
Ed Krein



In Honor Of:

Our son, Jonathan Wallace, & our daughter,
Amanda Winnington
Hanna Tobin
The Woodward Family
Grandchildren: Reagan, Logan & Emma Welsh
and Andrew & Emma Hoagland
Our daughters: Emily, Megan & Sara
Our parents, Don & Karen Evans
Maddie Carlson & Andrew Bloom
Loved Ones
Leo & Mary Lou Christel



Jim & Blanche Pando
Lois & Brian Galinat
The Gast Family
The Rev. Emily Schwenker



The 2024 *Roots & Rays* Service Challenge begins January 2. Take the challenge!

The Roots & Rays Service Challenge is a yearly month-long initiative, that was born in January of 2023 for the purposes of engaging our congregation and greater community in meaningful and creative service to those in need in our area and beyond. Rooted in our devotion to putting the words of Matthew 25: 34-36 into action, we look to feed, clothe, care for, and visit those who could use a loving hand. We believe that our annual Service Challenge is an incredible tool for bringing our congregation together in service, and also for connecting us in friendship to other local churches and to the outside community.

We hope that you will join us and serve in anyway you can, no matter how big or small. Throughout the month, we will be hosting a Baby Supply Giveaway, a Rise Against Hunger meal packing event after worship, a Blood Bank of Delmarva blood drive, an MLK Youth Service Day, volunteer sessions at the Food Bank of Delaware and Friendship House Clothing Bank, and much more!

**For details on all service events and how
to sign up visit:**

www.rccpc.org/serve

