

Clifton Presbyterian Church is a welcoming Christian Community driven by compassion, generosity, resilience and service to others.

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: God, sustain in me *EXHALE:* a willing spirit.



Shawn Augustine on [Unsplash](#)

March 8, 2026
9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*
10:00 AM *Worship*

3rd Sunday of Lent

WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*Words in **BOLD** indicate the congregation reading together. Words of the worship leader are in PLAIN type. An asterisk * indicates that the congregation may stand, as you wish.*

Gathering Song

[Lay Me Low](#)

One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can find me. **All: where God can find me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can hold me. **All: where God can hold me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can bless me. **All: where God can bless me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: oh, lay me low. **All: oh, lay me low.**

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

One: The bowl is filled with water, the towel is fetched from the shelf.

All: We come with expectation.

One: We come ready to be cleansed by the Spirit of God.

All: We come ready to be set free as Jesus' friends.

Presbyterian Hymnal 367 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love *vv 1, 2, 4

**(Refrain) Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)**

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away. (Refrain)**

**Loving puts us on our knees,
willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you. (Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession

One: We worship a servant God who modelled real love for us in word and in action, showing us how we should love one another. Confident of God's love, let us offer our confession. Let us pray.

All: King of heaven, who became servant of all, we praise and adore you. And yet, your absolute clarity, your uncompromising example make it so difficult for us to pretend that we do not know how we should live in love. You leave us no room for misunderstanding for you were very clear in your command that we should put others before ourselves and become the servant of others. And we do not like that. We don't like not getting our place. We don't like not being first. We don't like being servants. And we find it hard to love others. So, God, as we journey through Lent, turn us again to your example. Help us to soak up your teaching and your modelling. And then help us to imitate you in our love and service of one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: John wrote, "Having loved his own, he loved them to the end." In Jesus Christ, God's love never runs out, God's grace never falls short, God's mercy never fails to cover us. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

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

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

The Peace of Christ

One: God's grace in Christ makes us one with God, and one one with each other. Confident of that grace, let us share signs of our common life in Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Those in the worship space are invited to greet those around you.

Those on zoom are invited to offer greetings in the chat.

Cornerstone for Kids

Elder Nikki Lehman will lead the children (preschool – kindergarten, ages 3 – 6 years) through a spiritual journey of learning by listening, reading, and discussing bible stories as well as creating fun, hands-on crafts! The children will be excused from the worship service. Children are also always welcome to remain in worship.

Offering our Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

For those who would like to make a physical offering, the offering plates are available in the middle of the sanctuary. Donations can also be made online. www.cliftonpc.org

One: With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us offer our gifts to God. Let us pray.

All: God, we offer you hearts full of love and hands held out to serve. Use what we bring to heal your world and show us how and where and when you want us to be the answer to our prayer today as we dedicate ourselves to you. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Open My Heart *by Ana Hernández*

Open my heart, open my heart.

Open my heart, open my heart.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 51:7-12 (NRSVUE)

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Second Scripture Reading John 13:1-17 (NRSVUE)

¹³ Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already decided] that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

One: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon On the Threshold with Jesus: Self-Giving Love *Diane Walton Hendricks*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND ARE SENT TO THE WORLD

Presbyterian Hymnal 422 God Whose Giving Knows No Ending *vv 1-3*

**God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store,**

nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Celebrating Ministries

Ring of the Bell, Charge, and Benediction

Benediction Response Presbyterian Hymnal 535 Go With Us, Lord
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We can be reached at office@cliftonpc.org

Prayers adapted from Spill the Beans Worship Resources
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
One License #A- 721138 and CCLI License 20618208.

Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Evan Gass and Nicole Gass

Deacon Note Taker: Mark Lorey

Liturgist: Ashley Bybee

Technical Team: Stu Cranston

Nursery Volunteer: Nikki Lehman

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor

John Kim, Music Director | Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist

Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator | Kate Trussell, Preschool Director

Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita