

Clifton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
Loving God ~ Loving One Another ~ Loving the World



**TOGETHER
FOR JOY**

November 19, 2023
9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*
10:00 AM *Worship*

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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 able.*

Gathering Song PH 322 **Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh On Me**
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
... fall afresh on us ... fall afresh on me

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

*Call to Worship

From the small to the great, and from the great to the small, sing to God,
God has done marvelous things.

Let the electrons circle their nuclei,

Let the earth spin on its axis,

Let the moons orbit the planets,

Let the planets orbit the Sun,

Let the Sun spiral in its galaxy,

Let the galaxies revolve around their Creator,

Together for joy!

From the small to the great, and from the great to the small, sing to God,
for God has done marvelous things.

*Hymn PH 555

**Now Thank We All Our God
Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,**

whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.

Call to Confession

In the midst of our thanksgiving, let us pause to recall how we so often lose sight of the gifts of each day and of their Giver. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

For our foolish or careless use of the gifts of your creation,
Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For our indifference to the needs of others,
our brothers and sisters for whom you died, Christ have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace in worship
and private devotion, Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of God's Grace *(from Romans 5:8)*

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead. You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace *from Psalm 100:5*

However long we wander, however far we stray, God's steadfast love endures forever. Sisters and brothers, be assured: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sing Glory

GTG 584

Glory, Glory, Glory

Glory, glory, glory! Glory be to God on high!

Glory, glory, glory! Glory be to God on high!

And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased.

And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased.

The Peace of Christ

Let us share signs of peace in the name of the One we follow. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Those in the sanctuary are invited to greet those around you.

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

Offering our Gifts to God

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

The apostle Paul reminds us that each must decide in our hearts how much to give, not to give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.' Let us return an offering to the Lord. Let us pray.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, you call us to let go of the things we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in Your love and provision. Give us courage to step out boldly, using our gifts to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, your kingdom might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination GtG 456 Listen, God Is Calling (*sung twice*)

Leader: Listen,

**All: listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.**

First Reading John 15:9-17(CEB)

⁹ "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹² This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could

last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷ I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

God be in our listening, God be in our understanding.
Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading *Psalm 98 (CEB)*

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song
because he has done wonderful things!
His own strong hand and his own holy arm
have won the victory!
- ² The LORD has made his salvation widely known;
he has revealed his righteousness
in the eyes of all the nations.
- ³ God has remembered his loyal love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation.
- ⁴ Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth!
Be happy!
Rejoice out loud!
Sing your praises!
- ⁵ Sing your praises to the LORD with the lyre—
with the lyre and the sound of music.
- ⁶ With trumpets and a horn blast,
shout triumphantly before the LORD, the king!
- ⁷ Let the sea and everything in it roar;
the world and all its inhabitants too.
- ⁸ Let all the rivers clap their hands;
let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether ⁹ before the LORD
because he is coming to establish justice on the earth!
He will establish justice in the world rightly;
he will establish justice among all people fairly.

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

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

Hymn of Dedication PH 464 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

During the singing of the hymn, you are invited to offer your estimate of giving for 2024, placing it in the basket between the offering plates.

If you have already sent your pledge card in, you are welcome to simply touch the basket as a token of your commitment.

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

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.

Minute for Mission

Minute for Stewardship

Ringing of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response GTG 648

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

During the singing of the Benediction Response at the end of worship, the hosts will walk through the sanctuary with baskets to receive a second offering that will be used to pay off the mortgage, which is due in March of 2024. We are confident in our goal to become a debt free church within six months, and we invite all who feel called to participate in this goal to give freely of their resources knowing that our gifts will multiply our ministry and mission as we eliminate our building loan obligation and open up new opportunities to building up the Kingdom of God.

**Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord
rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

Prayers and Liturgy adapted from Kimberly Bracken Long, ed. *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion or Together for Joy* Worship Resources, www.saltproject.org

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Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Alice Crume and Pat Swanson

Deacon Prayer Recorder: Barbara Brown

Liturgist: Maureen Landry

Technical Team: Beth Corish and Jim Wrighton

Flowers provided by: Janet Buhler

Mission Elder: Mark Reimers

Stewardship Elder: Bill Watts