

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: Be my vision EXHALE: O Lord of my heart.



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July 12, 2026
Seventh 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 you wish.*

Gathering Song GtG 399 God Welcomes All
**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

*** Call to Worship**

One: On the third new moon, three months into the wilderness, the people of God, fresh from the tyranny of Egypt, come to the mountain of the Lord, and there they waited.

All: As we come to worship this day, we also await God's Word for us, and set ourselves to praise our gracious God.

One: Let us worship the God of Jacob and Moses.

***Presbyterian Hymnal 281 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah**

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.**

Prayer of Confession

One: God led the people out of slavery into freedom, then gave them rules for right living, and freedom to choose whether or not to obey them. Many, many moons have waxed and waned since those events were lived and the stories first told, but what God offers us is essentially the same: freedom, with guidance on how to live; guidance, with freedom to choose. Let us confess our sin together. Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, we thank you for the wisdom handed down to us from past generations, much of it learned the hard way, from mistakes made and consequences suffered. May we not be too quick to reject that ancient wisdom in an age when boundaries are so much more fluid and values relative. We give thanks, O God, for your wise advice to balance work with leisure, and self-absorption with worship and wonder. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel: you are secure in your relationship with God; you are freed by God's love; you are guided by God's word; and you have been chosen to share God's love with others.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sing Praise GtG 609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Peace of Christ

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us share signs of reconciliation and peace. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share that peace with one another.

*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

One: We offer our gifts not because we feel we ought to, nor because it is expected of us, nor even because the church needs them; we give freely and gladly in response to all that God has shared with us. Let us pray.

All: Living God, we made a free choice once to follow in the way of Christ; freely we renew that commitment now, not for hope of reward or fear of punishment, but because Christ alone has the words of eternal life. Receive our gifts; use us and them in the service of your kingdom, whose only law is the law of love. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination 322 Spirit of the Living God

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.

First Reading Matthew 22:34-40 (NRSVUE)

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

One: God be in our listening, God be in our understanding.

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2 (NRSVUE)

^{19:1} On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³ Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

...

20:1 Then God spoke all these words,

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

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 The Ten Statements: Freed for Relationship *Diane Walton Hendricks*

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

Presbyterian Hymnal 339 Be Thou My Vision *vv 1, 2*

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

Ordination and Installation of Deacon and Elders

Today we celebrate the ordination and installation of Deborah Forbes Lorey as ruling elder and Donna Bestebreutje as deacon. We also celebrate the installation of Suzanne Howell who has previously been ordained as an elder.

Constitutional Questions to Deacon and Elders

Constitutional Questions to Congregation

Do we, the members of Clifton Presbyterian Church, accept Deborah Forbes Lorey, Suzanne Howell, as ruling elders and Donna Bestebreutje as deacon, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?
We do.

Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Ordination and Installation

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 Ministries

Ringling of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response GtG 539

We Will Go Out With Joy in the Spirit
We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.
We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.
Alleluia! We will go out with joy. Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.
We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

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

Liturgy 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: Karen Williams and Peggy Cranston

Liturgist: Sharon Corish

Prayer Notetaker: Mark Lorey

Technical Team: Stu Cranston

Nursery Volunteer: Open

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

Sanctuary Flowers: Open

CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor | John Kim, Music Director

Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist | Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator

Kate Trussell, Preschool Director | Sue Ferguson, Director of Community Outreach and

Intergenerational Ministry | Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita