

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

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**Breath Prayers**

*INHALE: All through the night    EXHALE: do not let me go*

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Paul Gauguin, Vision of the Sermon (Jacob Wrestling with the Angel)  
From Art in the Christian Tradition of Vanderbilt University

September 28, 2025  
9:45 Prayer & Care  
10:00 AM Worship

16th Sunday after Pentecost

**WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

*An asterisk \* indicates that the congregation may stand, as able.*

*Songs marked GtG are from the Glory to God Hymnal and are printed with permission.*

*All other songs are from the Presbyterian Hymnal, which can be found in the pews.*

**Gathering Song   GtG 392    *Jesus, We Are Here***

**Jesus, we are here. Jesus, we are here.  
Jesus, we are here, we are here for you.**

**Savior, we are here...      Spirit, we are here...**

**Time of Prayer and Care**

## Prelude

### \*Call to Worship

One: When we are alone and afraid,

**All: God meets us in our need.**

One: When we question and wrestle with our God,

**All: God holds us, and lets us hold God, all through the night.**

One: We may be transformed in the wrestling,

**All: In the end, God remains steadfast in love for us.**

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: The Lord's name be praised!**

### \*Presbyterian Hymnal 483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above *vv 1, 2, 4*

Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
by morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
lo! all is just and all is right:  
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along  
I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;  
both soul and body, take your part:  
to God all praise and glory!

## Prayer of Confession

One: Let us confess our sins in the presence of the One who blesses us and meets our need. Let us pray:

**All: God of compassion, we are sick. We have wrestled all night with worry instead of resting in you. We have asserted our own goodness instead of**

awakening to yours. We have turned away those hungry for your help instead of trusting you and feeding them from your limitless supply of blessings. Forgive us, heal us, and help us to hold on to you. We call upon you, for you will answer us, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Assurance of God's Grace

One: The God of steadfast love is our refuge and Savior. In Christ, we who are broken and torn, weary and worn, are healed, forgiven, filled, and transformed.

**All: Thanks be to God for the grace we know in Christ!**

Sing Praise 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

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

**All: 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](http://www.cliftonpc.org)*

One: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. We return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Let us pray.

**All: Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goddess we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

Prayer for Illumination PH 339

Be Thou My Vision v.2

**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.**

### First Reading 2 Corinthians 4:5-7 (NRSVUE)

<sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has

shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, <sup>9</sup> persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, <sup>10</sup> always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh.

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

**All: Amen.**

## **Anthem**

### **Second Reading Genesis 32:9-31 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>9</sup> And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,' <sup>10</sup> I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. <sup>11</sup> Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. <sup>12</sup> Yet you have said, 'I will surely do you good and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.' "<sup>13</sup> So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, <sup>14</sup> two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, <sup>15</sup> thirty milch camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. <sup>16</sup> These he delivered into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between drove and drove." <sup>17</sup> He instructed the one in the lead, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?' <sup>18</sup> then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob; they are a present sent to my lord Esau, and moreover he is behind us.' "<sup>19</sup> He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you meet him, <sup>20</sup> and you shall say, 'Moreover your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he thought, "I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterwards I shall see his face; perhaps he will accept me." <sup>21</sup> So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself spent that night in the camp.

<sup>22</sup> The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?"

And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

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

Struggling with Jacob  
Holding On

*Diane Walton Hendricks*

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

**\*Presbyterian Hymnal 276 Great Is Thy Faithfulness vv 1, 2**

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

***Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (*Refrain*)**

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.**

Minute for Ministries

Ring of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

## **Benediction Response GtG 539    Lead Me, Guide Me**

**Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**I am weak and I need your strength and power  
to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness your face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

*Thank you for joining us for worship this morning.  
We can be reached at [office@cliftonpc.org](mailto:office@cliftonpc.org)*

Liturgy is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, Year A, vol. 2, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed. Westminster John Knox.  
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: Peggy Cranston & Joyce Rarumangkay**

**Liturgist: Bill Watts**

**Deacon Prayer Note Taker: Brenda Ference**

**Technical Team: Stu Cranston**

**Sanctuary Flowers: OPEN**

**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**

**Javier Linarte, Facility Manager | Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita**

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