

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: Blessing God,

EXHALE: teach me your ways of gentle grace.



Photo of Jen and Tony

February 15, 2026
9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*
10:00 AM *Worship*

6th Sunday after Epiphany

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 842

The Lord Is My Light

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust; in God I trust.
The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust; in God I trust.

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

***Call to Worship** *from Psalm 15*

One: Lord, we come into your sanctuary with eagerness.

All: May we hear your call and speak your truth.

One: Lord, we come to abide with you in love.

All: Gather us in honest and faithful community.

One: Lord, prepare us to be people of hope and grace.

All: Kindle in us courage to live as brave and faithful disciples.

One: Let us worship our God together in this holy place.

All: Alleluia. Amen.

***Opening Hymn GtG 401 Here In This Place**

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Confession *Micah 6:1-8*

One: With what shall I come before the Lord? We come, knowing we've lived imperfectly, knowing we need forgiveness, and we ask what we could possibly offer for such a gift.

But when we come in honesty and repentance, we find a God who is ready to love, ready to forgive, and ready to renew us as children of God. Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sin, first together and then in silent prayer

All: Merciful God, we come before you in confession. You have showered us with blessings, but we hoard those gifts, refusing to share with our neighbors in need. You have given us freedom to live justly, but we choose to oppress and judge others. You have called us to live in peaceful community, but we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves. Forgive us. Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear your call. Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in your way each and every day. Lord, hear our prayer ... (silent confession) ... Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: The mercy of the Lord is deeper than the depths of the sea and wider than the whole of the earth. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus

Christ, we are forgiven, healed and made whole.

All: Alleluia. Amen.

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: ...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.

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: Recognizing God's gracious blessings poured upon us, we respond with gratitude, giving of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of the kingdom here and now. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise. Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, thank you for the many blessings of our lives. Bless the gifts we give today. May they be used to bring about justice and joy for those who need them most. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination GtG 314 Christ Be Our Light *refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

First Reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NRSVUE)

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no oneⁱⁿ might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSVUE)

⁵ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

Elder Jennifer Basham

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

Presbyterian Hymnal 464 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee *vv 1, 3*

**Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
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!**

**Mortals, join the mighty 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 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

Ringing of the Bell, Charge, and Benediction

Benediction Response GtG 543 O Christ, Surround Me

**God be the love to search and keep me; God be the prayer to move my voice;
God be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ surround me, O Christ surround me.**

**Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ surround me, O Christ surround me.**

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

Prayers adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook Worship Resource
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: Ashley Bybee and JD and Tucker Bybee

Deacon Note Taker: John McKey

Liturgist: Janet Buhler

Technical Team: Jeff Dohse

Nursery Volunteer: Bekah Mann

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

Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita