

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



*Manna from Heaven* by Giovanni Battista Naldini

September 24, 2023  
9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*  
10:00 AM *Worship*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
*Zoom Meeting ID: 405 403 7868*  
*Passcode: 12748*

**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 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** *from Psalm 107*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Those God redeemed from trouble

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Those gathered in from the east and the the west, the north and the south.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let those who are wise give heed to these things,

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let us worship God!

**\*Hymn GtG 509**

**All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly**

**All who hunger, gather gladly**

**Holy manna is our bread.**

**Come from wilderness and wand'ring,**

**Here in truth, we will be fed.**

**You that yearn for days of fullness,**

**All around us is our food.**

**Taste and see the grace eternal**

**Taste and see that God is good.**

**Call to Confession**

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

With that assurance and the promise of God's grace through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, forgive us when we fail to trust in your ability to provide what we need for life. We see what others have, and grow jealous. We fall short of our desires, and become resentful. We accumulate more and more, and fail to be satisfied. Open us to your mercies that fall like rain each day. Help us to open our hands to receive your grace, our minds to know your truth, and our hearts to trust in your providence. And then free us to share what we have been given by you in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Assurance of God's Grace** *from Psalm 145 and Ephesians 2*

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel! 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 this 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](http://www.cliftonpc.org)*

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.”

Let us bring our offerings to God, even as we present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

### Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we know that every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from you. We thank you for your many blessings, especially your perfect gift of your Son Jesus Christ, your indescribable gift! Help us to receive your gifts and grace with thanksgiving and humility and to use them faithfully in and for your kingdom. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 Matthew 6:25-34 (CEB)

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are? <sup>27</sup> Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t

spin cloth. <sup>29</sup> But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it's alive today and tomorrow it's thrown into the furnace, won't God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' <sup>32</sup> Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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

## Anthem

### Second Reading Exodus 15:22-25; 16:1-3, 9-18, 22-26 (CEB)

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses had Israel leave the Reed Sea and go out into the Shur desert. They traveled for three days in the desert and found no water. <sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they couldn't drink Marah's water because it was bitter. That's why it was called Marah. <sup>24</sup> The people complained against Moses, "What will we drink?" <sup>25</sup> Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord pointed out a tree to him. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

...

<sup>16:1</sup>The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Sin desert, which is located between Elim and Sinai. They set out on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left the land of Egypt.

<sup>2</sup> The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "Oh, how we wish that the LORD had just put us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt. There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat our fill of bread. Instead, you've brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death."

...

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole Israelite community, 'Come near to the LORD, because he's heard your complaints.'" <sup>10</sup> As Aaron spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, <sup>12</sup> "I've heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat. And in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'"

<sup>13</sup> In the evening a flock of quail flew down and covered the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the layer of dew lifted, there on the desert surface were thin flakes, as thin as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" They didn't know what it was.

Moses said to them, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup> This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Collect as much of it as each of you can eat, one omer per person. You may collect for the number of people in your household.'" <sup>17</sup> The Israelites did as Moses said, some collecting more, some less. <sup>18</sup> But when they measured it out by the omer, the ones who had collected more had nothing left over, and the ones who had collected less had no shortage. Everyone collected just as much as they could eat...

<sup>22</sup> On the sixth day the people collected twice as much food as usual, two omers per person. All the chiefs of the community came and told Moses. <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "This is what the Lord has said, 'Tomorrow is a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. But you can set aside and keep all the leftovers until the next

morning.”<sup>24</sup> So they set the leftovers aside until morning, as Moses had commanded. They didn’t stink or become infested with worms.<sup>25</sup> The next day Moses said, “Eat it today, because today is a Sabbath to the Lord. Today you won’t find it out in the field.<sup>26</sup> Six days you will gather it. But on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be nothing to gather.”

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.**

Sermon

Moses: Provision in the Wilderness

*Diane Walton Hendricks*

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

Hymn PH 446

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken *vv 1-3*

**Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God.**

**God, whose word cannot be broken  
formed thee for a blest abode.**

**On the rock of ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.**

**See, the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters  
and all fear of want remove.**

**Who can faint while such a river  
ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,  
never fails from age to age.**

**'Round each habitation hovering,  
see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering,  
showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner  
light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna  
which God gives them when they pray.**

## 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.**

## Celebrating Ministries

- Minute for Mission

## Ringling of the Bell

## Charge and Benediction

## Benediction Response GTG 740 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)*

Prayers and Liturgy adapted from Teri Ott, 9.17.23 *Presbyterian Outlook Weekly Liturgy Resource*.

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## Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Mark Lorey and Kimberly Davis

Deacon Prayer Recorder: Barbara Brown

Liturgist: Bette Petersen

Technical Team: Steve Landry

Flowers provided by: Mary and John McKey (in honor of Frances McKey)

## CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor

John Kim, Music Director

Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist

Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator

Amy McConaghie, Preschool Director

Qui Nguyen, Sexton