

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



Breath Prayer:

INHALE:

God of grace

EXHALE:

Clothe me in your love.

Omar Gattis on Unsplash

January 12, 2025
9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*
10:00 AM *Worship*

Baptism of the Lord

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**

One: There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God.
Do you ever feel that way?

All: Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.

One: Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.
Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

All: Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

One: Let us worship the God who knows our names.

All: Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

***Hymn PH #356 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!**

Prayer of Confession

One: The Gospel of Luke tells us that the sky opened up and the voice of God was heard saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well-pleased." Friends, that's not the only time God has said words like that. If we trust the promise of scripture, then we can trust that God delights in you. God created you. God loves you with the same passion that we hear God express in today's scripture. So trusting that good news, trusting that we are beloved, let us go to God in prayer. For we know that the one who listens, listens with love. What greater gift exists than that? Let us pray:

All: Loving God, from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced "good" with "not enough." Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Family of faith, God's grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. So say these words of grace with me:

All: Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sing Glory PH 580

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

The Peace of Christ

One: Jesus takes on flesh and blood to live among us as our peace. Christ's peace which is rooted in our hearts through the Holy Spirit gives us courage to become peacemakers in this world of division. Begin by offering signs of peace to those who are close to you, and asking God's peace to be upon those who are far off. The peace of the Lord Jesus 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

One: A generous God calls us to live generous lives. Let us present our tithes and offerings to further Christ's mission and ministry.

All: Bless and multiply our gifts, God, that they may be a blessing to others. May whoever benefits from these offerings know of your love for them and our desire to serve. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Presbyterian Hymnal 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 Luke 3:21-23 (NRSV)

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ²³Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work.

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Galatians 3:23-29 (NRSV)

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

Getting Dressed

Diane Walton Hendricks

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Presbyterian Hymnal #492

Baptized in Water, *v. 3*

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children,
joyfully now, God's praises we sing.**

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.

WE ARE SENT TO THE WORLD

Minute for 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 and liturgy adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
and Rev. Teri Ott | The Presbyterian Outlook | pres-outlook.org
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: Rene Law and Barbara Brown

Deacon Note Taker: Jean Bourneuf

Liturgist: Stephen Law

Technical Team: Jim Wrightson

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

Please keep in your prayers:

Pastor Diane extended healing prayers for Diane Reimers hospitalized for possible circulatory condition in her right hand. (1.5.25)

Pastor Diane reported that Rich Coyle is home from the hospital following GI surgery last week. Prayers for his continued healing and for Lynn as she provides care. (1.5.25)

Nikki Lehman requested prayers for peace & comfort for her friend Kate's mother Carol recently diagnosed with metastatic cancer. (1.5.25)

Mary McKey & Maureen Landry voiced concerns for safety & survival for those enduring the cold weather & winter storm. (1.5.25)

Ruth Ann Hadley requested prayers for her friend Lorie as she undergoes neurosurgery this week. (1.5.25)

Jen Basham raised those impacted by the recent terrorist attack in New Orleans. (1.5.25)

Paul Shortt requested prayers for his mother, Prita, who is experiencing abdominal pains. (12.22.24)

Rachel Cooke requested prayers for her parents, as they have a contract on their house and are trying to move back to Virginia within the next 2 months. (12.22.24)

Peggy Cranston requested prayers for Patty as she is in rehab. (12.22.24)

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

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