

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: Spirit of Truth, *EXHALE:* may I see you and receive you.



May 10, 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter

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 243 Be Not Afraid
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

***Call to Worship** *Matthew 23:37*

One: As a hen gathers her brood under her wings, so God desires to gather us together.

All: Gather us, O God.

One: Let us offer our praise to God.

All: We are here to worship and sing God's praise.

***Hymn GtG 401**

Here in This Place *vv 1, 2, 4*

**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.**

**We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**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

One: Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. And so as we come to God in worship here in this place, we can be honest about the ways that we fall short of God's intentions for us; we can be honest about being caught up in the ways of sin. Let us pray.

All: Holy God, we are quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to blame. We fail to offer others the same grace we receive from you. We hold ourselves up as superior and fail to address the patterns of dominance we perpetuate. Forgive us. Help us seek understanding and compassion. Help us accept the love you offer us and share your love with others. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Christ transforms, redeems and renews. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Praise be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

Sing Praise Presbyterian Hymnal 123

Jesus Christ is Risen Today *vv 4*

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

The Peace of Christ

One: We believe that the church is the body of Christ, the family of faith with one common name: Christian. Like many families, when we get together, we delight in the reunion. At Clifton Presbyterian Church the passing of the peace is a robust time of reconnecting with old friends and welcoming new ones. If it all gets too much, feel free to return to your seat and let it all happen around you. We can all trust that you are caught up in the love that binds us all together, even if you'd rather just sit. 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: Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Let us pray.

**All: Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us.
We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world.
May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need.
May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. Amen.**

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia!

First Reading John 14:15-21

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Acts 17:22-31

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

Moderator Jesy Littlejohn

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

Hymn 455

**All Creatures of Our God and King *vv 1, 5, 6*
All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And everyone of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and cast on God your care:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All creatures, your Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness. O sing ye, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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 Presbyterian Hymnal 111

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Some liturgy from Teri McDowell Ott and the *Presbyterian Outlook*.

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: Beth and Ed Corish

Liturgist: Nikki Lehman

Prayer Notetaker: Barbara Brown

Technical Team: Mark Lorey

Nursery Volunteer: Bette Petersen

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