

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: God of Grace, *EXHALE:* lead me home.



Eduard von Gebhardt, The Raising of Lazarus (detail)
Wikimedia Commons

February 22, 2026
9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*
10:00 AM *Worship*

2nd Sunday of Lent

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

[Lay Me Low](#)

One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can find me. **All: where God can find me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can hold me. **All: where God can hold me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can bless me. **All: where God can bless me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: oh, lay me low. **All: oh, lay me low.**

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

***Call to Worship** *from Psalm 104: 27-30*

One: All creatures look to God, to give them their food in due season;
when God gives to them, they gather it up;

All: When God's hands are open, we are filled with good things.

One: When God's face is hidden, we are dismayed;
when our breath is gone, we die and return to dust.

**All: When God sends forth the Holy Spirit, we are created,
the ground is renewed.**

***Presbyterian Hymnal 476 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!** *vv 1, 5*

**O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

Prayer of Confession

One: Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

All: God of abundant love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: Relentlessly, God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Presbyterian Hymnal 579

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: ...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: With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us offer our gifts to God. Let us pray.

All: O God, with faith and hope, we offer our gifts. Use them, as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Open My Heart *by Ana Hernández*

Open my heart, open my heart.

Open my heart, open my heart.

Scripture Reading John 11:1-44 (NRSVUE)

^{11:1} Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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 **On the Threshold with Jesus: Death and Life** *Diane Walton Hendricks*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Communion Anthem

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving, Prayers of the People, and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right... As our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Presbyterian Hymnal 76 My Song Is Love Unknown

**My song is love unknown—
my Savior's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

**Christ came from heaven's throne
salvation to bestow;
but people scorned, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!**

**Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.**

**They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save;
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.**

**Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Prayer After Communion

WE ARE SENT TO THE WORLD

Celebrating Ministries

Ringing of the Bell, Charge, and Benediction

**Benediction Response Presbyterian Hymnal 535 Go With Us, Lord
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

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: Rene Law and Joanne Woodward

Deacon Note Taker: Barbara Brown

Liturgist: Jim Petersen

Technical Team: Jen Basham

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

Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita