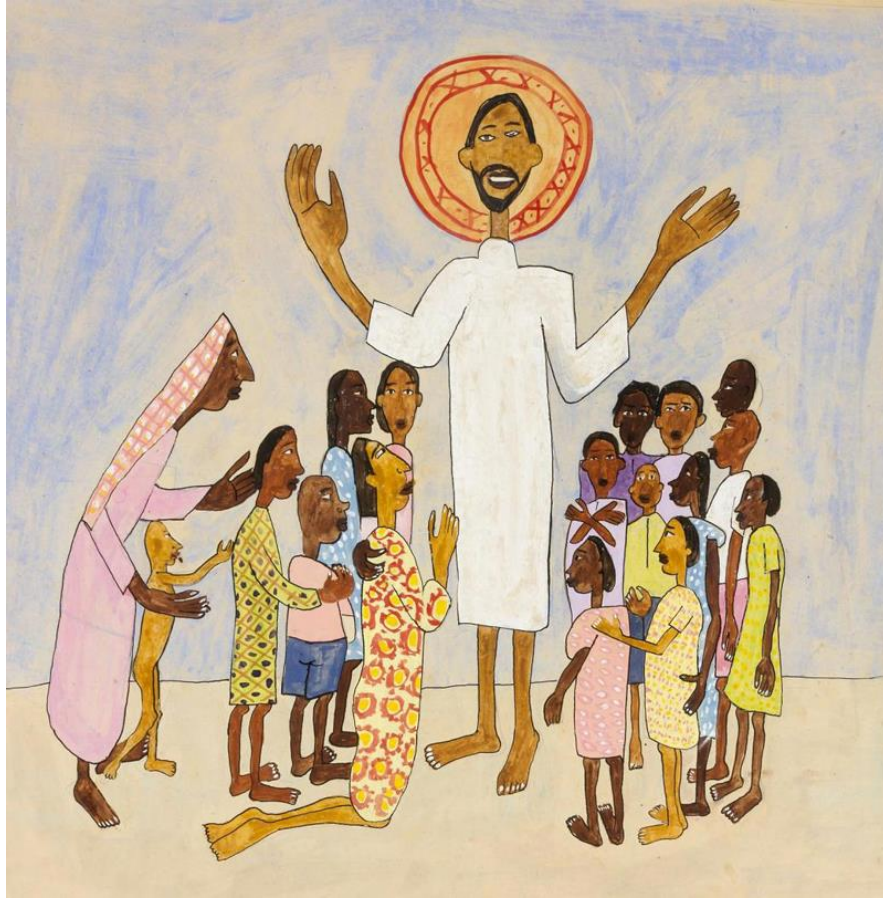


Clifton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
Loving God ~ Loving One Another ~ Loving the World



Come Unto Me, Little Children by William Johnson
From *Art in the Christian Tradition* of Vanderbilt University

April 28, 2024
9:45 Prayer & Care
10:00 AM Worship

Fifth 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 able.

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

***Opening Sentences**

One: O God, who created the heavens and stretched them out,

All: we praise you!

One: You made the earth and all that lives here:

All: we praise you!

One: You give breath to all creatures and your Spirit to your people:

All: we praise and thank you, O God!

One: That the eyes of the blinded be opened, the poor hear the good news,
The captives he brought out of darkness,
the wealth of the world serve the good of all,

All: your kingdom come, O God; your will be done!

One: Then let us sing a new song.

All: With joy let us honor our Maker.

***Hymn GtG #401**

Here in This Place *vv 1-2*

**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.**

Call to Confession

Beloved, we are made in the divine image, and God called us good. Yet we go our own way, causing harm to ourselves, to one another, and to the planet. Confident in the mercy of the One who made us and saved us, let us confess our sin to God and one another. Join me in the prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession

All: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to turning away from God in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

(A time of silence for personal confession).

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the good news of the gospel, God has forgiven you, Christ has renewed you, and the Spirit enables you to grow in love.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sing Praise PH 123

Sing We to Our God Above v. 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: Christ is our peace, the neverending, abiding, enduring peace we now share with each other, for Christ is alive and Lord of all. May the peace of our risen Lord 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: Friends, let us commit ourselves, O Christ, for God's holding, God's directing, God's inspiring, God's fulfillment. Let us commit ourselves and our gifts to God.

Prayer of Dedication

One: Let us pray.

All: God, Bless us with your power to heal, help, liberate and challenge. Bless us with your yearning for a better world and a fuller faith. Bless us with your Holy Spirit within us and among us. 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 Acts 10:44-48 (CEB)

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, ⁴⁷ "These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?" ⁴⁸ He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Mark 9:33-37 (CEB)

³³ They entered Capernaum. When they had come into a house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about during the journey?” ³⁴ They didn’t respond, since on the way they had been debating with each other about who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be least of all and the servant of all.” ³⁶ Jesus reached for a little child, placed him among the Twelve, and embraced him. Then he said, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me isn’t actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me.”

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 Resurrection People Include the Excluded *Diane Walton Hendricks*

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

Hymn PH #495

We Know That Christ Is Raised *vv. 1-3*

**We know that Christ is raised
and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke
its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned
to blazing joy. Alleluia!**

**We share by water in
his saving death.
Reborn we share with him
an Easter life
as living members of
a living Christ. Alleluia!**

**The Father's splendor clothes
the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes
the church of God.
Baptized we live with God
the Three in One. Alleluia!**

Presentation for Baptism

Elder Bette Petersen

The Session presents Lyla and Nico, children of Sara and Lucas Caparelli for the sacrament of baptism.

Profession of Faith: The Apostle's Creed

One: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

Sacrament of Baptism

Welcome

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 Mission

Ringling of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response PH 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*

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License #A- 721138 and CCLI License 20618208.
Liturgy taken from the Iona Abbey Worship Book.

Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Kimberly Davis and Ashley Bybee

Liturgist: Maureen Landry

Technical Team: Steve Landry and Stewart Cranston

Sanctuary Flowers: Stanton-Hoyle Family in honor of Lyla & Nico Caparelli's Baptism

Mission Elder: Mark Reimers

CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor

John Kim, Music Director

Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist

Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator

Amy McConaghie, Preschool Director

Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita