

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: I am ready, EXHALE: for your truth to live in me.



October 18, 2026
21st Sunday after Pentecost

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 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**

One: Our mouths declare:

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

One: Our hearts sing out:

All: the love of God is great!

One: Our lives proclaim:

All: the Spirit is alive in the world!

One: May our common life shape a space in the world that is ready to explore
a faith that is alive and willingly shared in this time of worship.

All: Let us worship God.

***Presbyterian Hymnal 485 To God Be the Glory**

**To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!**

Prayer of Confession

One: We come together this day to worship and to praise God. We come together to offer our thanks for all God has done and continues to do for our world. We come together to share our joys and our sorrows. We also come together to confess our sins, to reflect on what we have done and what we chose not to do. Confident of God's love, let us confess our sins. Let us pray.

All: Lord Jesus, love incarnate, you are with us as we lift our hearts; you are with us when our hearts are heavy. Be with us now as we lay our burdens before you in a time of quiet. (Silence). O God, hear and forgive us, we pray. We want to be faithful and true to you. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Family of faith, be assured of the love of God which sees us as we are, the grace of Christ which forgives us all our sins, and the Spirit of hope that frees us to live as God's beloved children, sharing that love with others to bring glory to God today and always.

All: We trust that good news, and want to share it.

Sing Glory GtG 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us share signs of reconciliation and peace.
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: All we have is a gift from God. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Let us pray.

All: Generous God, accept the gifts of ourselves and of our money. May all that we have and all that we give be used to your glory and to the good work of your church. In Jesus' name. 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 Scripture Reading John 14:15-17 (NRSVUE)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. ¹⁷ This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Scripture Reading 1 John 4:1-6 (MSG)

¹ My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.

²⁻³ Here's how you test for the genuine Spirit of God. Everyone who confesses openly his faith in Jesus Christ—the Son of God, who came as an actual flesh-and-blood person—comes

from God and belongs to God. And everyone who refuses to confess faith in Jesus has nothing in common with God. This is the spirit of antichrist that you heard was coming. Well, here it is, sooner than we thought!

⁴⁻⁶ My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world. These people belong to the Christ-denying world. They talk the world's language and the world eats it up. But we come from God and belong to God. Anyone who knows God understands us and listens. The person who has nothing to do with God will, of course, not listen to us. This is another test for telling the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of deception.

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

Diane Walton Hendricks

Light, Truth, Love: A Sermon Series on 1 John
A Spirit of Truth

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

***Presbyterian Hymnal GtG 324 Open My Eyes, That I May See**

**Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!
Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

***Affirmation of Faith**

One: O Church, who is Jesus?

All: We believe Jesus is the unseen love of God made known; a kind friend who calls us by name and offers outstretched hands whenever there is need; gifting us with the Holy Spirit who never leaves us.

One: Family of faith, what is the church?

All: We believe the church is called to be a space of gentleness where you can breathe: like a clearing where you can hear the birds, feel the breeze, and smell the fresh air, away from pressure, commotion and noise. In this place of gentleness, we belong. In this place of gentleness, we can find courage to be vulnerable and honest with ourselves, God, and one another; we can offer our gifts in service of the common good; and be strengthened to bear this hope to the world.

One: People of God, what is the gospel?

All: We believe that we are compelled to share this space of gentleness to those who are alone in the world. We will listen to the needs of those who live beyond the gentleness. We will honor what they share, and respond with love, trusting God to bring out what is good. This is gospel - good news.

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.

Minute for Ministries

Ringling of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response GtG 543

O Christ, Surround Me *vv 1, 4*
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

Liturgy and Image from Spill the Beans 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 Peggy Cranston

Liturgist: Stephen Law

Prayer Notetaker: Kim Sykes

Technical Team: Mark Lorey

Nursery Volunteer: Karen Williams

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

Sanctuary Flowers: Provided by family of Erica Elizabeth Brandenburg Milner

CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor | John Kim, Music Director

Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist | Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator

Kate Trussell, Preschool Director | Sue Ferguson, Director of Community Outreach and

Intergenerational Ministry | Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita