

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: God of All EXHALE: grow the beauty of the world through me.



Photo by Nikolett Emmert on Unsplash

July 5, 2026
Sixth 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 399 **God Welcomes All**
God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

*** Call to Worship**

One: Calling all citizens of heaven: exiled dreamers and disciples of love.

All: God is close to the outcast and faithful to all.

One: Calling all pilgrims of the Spirit, carried by the winds of hope,

All: God is everywhere at all times, compassionate to all.

One: Calling all travelers between worlds, who translate compassion into peace,

All: God makes neighbors of strangers and kin of the forgotten.

One: Come to worship and be renewed for this long journey.

All: Strangers in a strange land, we have come to worship the creator of all.

***Presbyterian Hymnal 564** **O Beautiful for Spacious Skies** *vv 1, 3, 4*

**O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with *brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness
and every gain divine!**

Prayer of Confession

One: Let us offer our confession to our God. Let us pray. Gracious One,
where do we begin? You call us to do justice,

All: and we explain that justice is complicated.

One: You ask us to love mercy,

All: and we counter that a show of strength is necessary.

One: You invite us to walk humbly with you,

**All: and we struggle to recognize you in our neighbors, in the dispossessed,
in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts.**

One: We confess we have failed to summon the courage and compassion
required by your call.

**All: We have treated hospitality as an option, kinship as a choice,
instead of as the center of our life together.**

One: We have claimed your name, yet rejected your way.

All: Forgive us, we pray.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, hear this good news: God's gift is love that liberates, hope that inspires,
grace that transforms. Each of us alone and all of us together are forgiven
and set free

All: We give thanks and rejoice in God's love!

Sing Praise GtG 609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, 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 revel 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 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: In great gratitude for all that God has done, let us give joyfully and generously to support God's work in the world. Let us pray.

All: Generous God, how can we thank you for all that you have given us? We give back but a tiny portion in hopes that it may bless the world as you have blessed us. In the name of Jesus, our brother and our Lord, Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination 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 Philippians 4:4-9 (NRSVUE)

⁴ Rejoice^[a] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

All: Amen.

Sermon

Thinking on These Things

Dr. Laura Cunningham

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

Communion Hymn GtG 507

Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace...

Come to the table of love...

Come to the table of hope...

Come to the table of joy...

Prayer After Communion

WE ARE SENT TO THE WORLD

Minute for Ministries

Ringling of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response GtG 539

We Will Go Out With Joy in the Spirit

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

Alleluia! We will go out with joy. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.

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

Liturgy from Illustrated Ministry's Fourth of July Pastoral Care Package

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License #A- 721138 and CCLI License 20618208.

Joining us on Sunday is Guest Preacher Laura Cunningham

Laura Cunningham is a presbytery minister-at-large - this means she is “free range” and does not refer to her physical size. She lives in Arlington and has pastored churches throughout the DMV. Ordained 26 years, she is passionate about learning new ways to listen for God and growing in love for her young adult children, Will and Ginny, clergy spouse Scott Ramsey, and mini goldendoodle dog Cody. She is like a newborn in understanding the work of the Spirit in spiritual care and the power of prayer in her life and in the world. Most recently, Laura has completed two units of clinical pastoral education (chaplaincy internships) and is taking on new hiking challenges.

Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Joyce Rarumangkay and Beth Corish

Liturgist: Karen Williams

Prayer Notetaker: Barbara Brown

Technical Team: Jim Wrightson

Nursery Volunteer: Open

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

Sue Ferguson, Director of Community Outreach and Intergenerational Ministry

Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita