

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: Teach me your way, God, EXHALE: that I may walk in your truth.



Path in West Virginia Photo by Diane Walton Hendricks

August 16, 2026
Twelfth 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

Welcome and Opening Words

*** Call to Worship** *from Psalm 86*

One: Our God is good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love and mercy.

All: God is great and does wondrous things.

One: Teach us your way, O God, that we may walk in your truth;

All: Unite our hearts, that we may honor you.

One: We will give thanks to the Lord our God,

All: And glorify God's name forever.

***Presbyterian Hymnal**

God Is Here!

**God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.**

**Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.**

**Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.**

**Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.**

**Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

Prayer for Courage *from the Commymeela Daily Prayer Book*

One: Lord, you have searched us and known us, and called us to better things. You have set us in this world to love and serve you by loving and serving one another, to worship you by tending to those most vulnerable among us. When we fail, do not abandon us. When we go astray, call us back home.

All: Courage comes from the heart and we are always welcomed by God, the heart of all being. We bear witness to our faith, knowing that we are called to live lives of courage, love and reconciliation in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of each day. We bear witness, too, to our failures and our complicity in the fractures of our world. May we be courageous today. May we learn today. May we love today. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace *from the Iona Community*

One: With the whole church we affirm

**All: that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

One: With people everywhere we affirm

**All: God's goodness at the heart of humanity
planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

One: With all creation we celebrate

**All: the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God
forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

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: 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.

Anthem

Committing our Lives & Offering Our Gifts to God *from the Iona Abbey Worshipbook*

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: We are each invited to follow Jesus, to give ourselves to the care of creation and to the suffering ones of the world. We can follow whether we have been faithful in our past life commitments or if we have failed, for Christ always invites us to make new beginnings in our lives. Let us pray.

**All: O God of the high heavens,
O Christ of the deep earth,
O Spirit of the flowing waters,
O Trinity of love, you have offered your love to us,
and here we pledge our love to you.
Strengthen us in our desire,
and breathe into our bodies the passion of your love.
We pray this in the name of Jesus,
to whom we commit ourselves. 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 Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSVUE)

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

All: Amen.

Second Reading Ephesians 4:7, 11-16 (NRSVUE)

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ¹¹ He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,[e] to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

What Is Ours to Do: *Diane Walton Hendricks*
Thirty Years of Learning to Trust the Spirit

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

Hymn GtG 726

The Summons

**"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"**

**"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"**

**“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**

**“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

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 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 Presbyterian Outlook Worship Resources
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: Evan and Noelle Gass

Liturgist: Suzanne Howell

Prayer Notetaker: Mark Lorey

Technical Team: Jen Basham

Nursery Volunteer: Kim Sykes

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

Sanctuary Flowers: Pastor Diane Hendricks in honor of 30th Ordination Anniversary

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