

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: God our light, *EXHALE:* shine in me.



September 27, 2026
18th 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: God is light and in God we find no darkness at all.

All: Lead us from dark paths that we might walk in your light.

One: God is light and in God we find perfect fellowship.

All: Heal us and restore us, cleanse us and reshape us.

One: God is light and in God we find perfect love.

All: May we worship God and know God's presence.

One: Let us worship God.

***Presbyterian Hymnal 244 Let Us with a Gladsome Mind vv 1, 2**

**Let us with a gladsome mind
praise the Lord who is so kind:
for God's mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**God, with all-commanding might,
filled the new-made world with light:
for God's mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.**

Prayer of Confession

One: The kindness of God is revealed to us in so many ways. From the sun shining in the sky, to the delicate bloom of a flower; from the power of the waves on the shore, to the gentle purring of a cat on our lap. Everything we know and see comes from God and reveals God's love for us, right in front of us in plain sight in the light of day. And yet so often we choose to hide in shadow. Trusting in God's mercies, let us confess our sin. Let us pray.

All: Lord, we do not know why sometimes we choose to ignore your signs and choose instead to grope around blindly in our darkness. We are sorry, Lord. We regret those times we choose to turn away from your light. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to turn back to bask in the light of your love, to draw strength from it and to then share your love with others. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: In Christ we are assured that the light of God's love is never ending and the hope of God's forgiveness is a free gift.

All: We trust that light has come to us, and long to bear that light to the world.

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: God, you gave your love to us in the form of the Word made flesh; we can never repay your generous gift, and neither do you ask us to do so. Instead you ask us to love you and each other, giving generously in word, deed and action. Receive these gifts of money, may they become a gift for the work of the church both at home and wherever your creation is in need. 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 1:1-4 (NRSVUE)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

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

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Scripture Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2 (CEB)

^{1:1} We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. ² The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. ³ What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

⁵ This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all." ⁶ If we claim, "We have fellowship with him," and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. ⁷ But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. ⁸ If we claim, "We don't have any sin," we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong. ¹⁰ If we claim, "We have never sinned," we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

^{2:1} My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. ² He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

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 Sharing the Joy

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

***Hymn GtG 377**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light vv 1,2

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

***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.

Update on Creating Connections and

Commissioning of Leaders of *A Landing Place*

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: Joanne Woodward and Pete Daniels

Liturgist: Sue Ferguson

Prayer Notetaker: Kathy Rehm

Technical Team: Mark Lorey

Nursery Volunteer: Barbara Brown

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