

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

Breath Prayer:

INHALE: Holy Healer, EXHALE: I want to want wholeness.



Healing of the Paralyzed Man, Monastery of Stavronikita, Mount Athos

February 8, 2026

5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*

10:00 AM *Worship*

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 842 The Lord Is My Light

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust; in God I trust.
The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust; in God I trust.

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

One: O God, you called us by name to come, and we respond with delight and gladness

All: In joyful response, we come to worship our God.

One: Rising out of the depths of despair, we gratefully gather for worship.

All: In joyful hope, we come to worship our loving God.

One: Our God had given us a new song of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

All In joyful trust, we come to worship our God. Amen.

***Presbyterian Hymnal 276 Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

Prayer of Confession

One: Do not let your hearts be troubled, but confess your sins, and God will give you peace.

All: Loving God, we confess that we are an anxious people who deny your blessing and fail to keep your word. Forgive us, we pray, for these and all our sins, that we might live in peace and reflect your love in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: Let your hearts be still, for God loves you and forgives all your wrongdoing.

Beloved, receive the peace of Christ. In the name of Jesus, we are made new!

All: Thanks be to God!

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: ...The peace of Christ 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.

Cornerstone for Kids

Elder Nikki Lehman will lead the children (preschool – kindergarten, ages 3 – 6 years) through a spiritual journey of learning by listening, reading, and discussing bible stories as well as creating fun, hands-on crafts! The children will be excused from the worship service. Children are also always welcome to remain in worship.

Offering our Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

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: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it.
Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Let us pray.

All: **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination GtG 314 Christ Be Our Light *refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

First Reading Psalm 40:1-5 (NRSVUE)

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;

 he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² He drew me up from the desolate pit,

 out of the miry bog,

and set my feet upon a rock,

 making my steps secure.

³ He put a new song in my mouth,

 a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear

 and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴ Happy are those who make

 the LORD their trust,

who do not turn to the proud,

 to those who go astray after false gods.

⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God,

 your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;

 none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,

 they would be more than can be counted.

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

All: **Amen.**

Anthem

Second Reading John 5:1-18 (NRSVUE)

¹ After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. ⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” ⁷ The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” ¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” ¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk?’” ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. ¹⁴ Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶ Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.” ¹⁸ For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the Sabbath but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

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

Words of Life: Word of Wholeness

Diane Walton Hendricks

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

Glory to God Hymnal 797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal, *vv 1, 3*

**We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.**

**Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.**

So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.

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.

Celebrating Ministries

Ringing of the Bell, Charge, and Benediction

Benediction Response GtG 543 O Christ, Surround Me

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

Most prayers and liturgy adapted from Spill the Beans resources and Feasting on the Word Worship Companion
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: Emily and Mark Trkula

Deacon Note Taker: OPEN

Liturgist: Phil Squair

Technical Team: Mark Lorey

Nursery Volunteer: Nikki Lehman

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

Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita