

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

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**Breath Prayer:**

*INHALE:* God of Grace,      *EXHALE:* lead me home.

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February 22, 2026

1st Sunday of Lent

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**

[Lay Me Low](#)

One: Lay me low,    **All: Lay me low,**  
One: where God can find me.    **All: where God can find me.**  
One: Lay me low,    **All: Lay me low,**  
One: where God can hold me.    **All: where God can hold me.**  
One: Lay me low,    **All: Lay me low,**  
One: where God can bless me.    **All: where God can bless me.**  
One: Lay me low,    **All: Lay me low,**  
One: oh, lay me low.    **All: oh, lay me low.**

**Time of Prayer and Care**

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship** *from Psalm 23*

One: The Lord leads us like a shepherd.

**All: God nourishes our lives and restores our souls.**

One: The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.

**All: God's goodness and mercy are always close.**

**\*Presbyterian Hymnal 387 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

**Prayer of Confession**

One: Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

**All: God of abundant love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Assurance of Grace**

One: Relentlessly, God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news!

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**Presbyterian Hymnal 579**

**Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen, Amen**

**The Peace of Christ**

One: ...The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*Those in the worship space are invited to greet those around you.*

*Those on zoom are invited to offer greetings in the chat.*

**Anthem**

**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](http://www.cliftonpc.org)*

One: With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us offer our gifts to God. Let us pray.

**All: O God, with faith and hope, we offer our gifts. Use them, as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.**

## ***WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD***

Prayer for Illumination

Open My Heart *by Ana Hernández*

**Open my heart, open my heart.**

**Open my heart, open my heart.**

### **Scripture Reading John 9:1-41 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>9:1</sup> As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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    On the Threshold with Jesus: Finding Home *Diane Walton Hendricks*

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

Presbyterian Hymnal 280    Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound *vv 1, 3*

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**

## 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** Presbyterian Hymnal 535      **Go With Us, Lord**  
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way**  
**through this and every coming day,**  
**that in your Spirit strong and true**  
**our lives may be our gift to you.**

*Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We can be reached at [office@cliftonpc.org](mailto:office@cliftonpc.org)*

Prayers adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook 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:** Tanie and Brad Boeddeker

**Deacon Note Taker:** Beth Corish

**Liturgist:** Nikki Lehman

**Technical Team:** Jim Wrightson

**Nursery Volunteer:** Rene Law

**Mission Elder:** Kimberly Davis

## 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