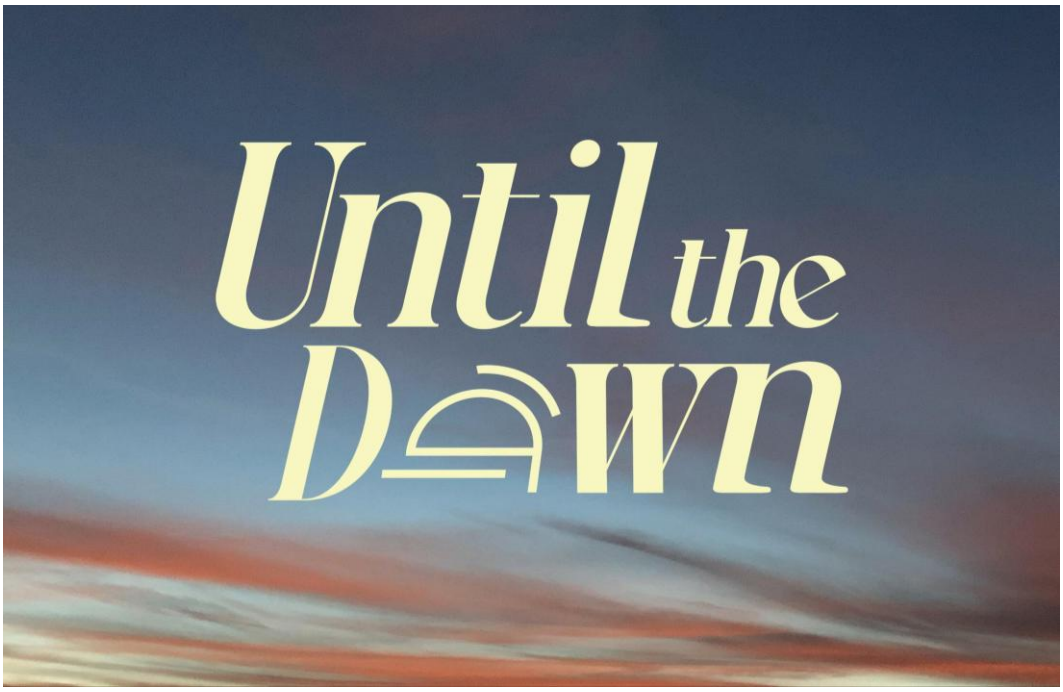
Clifton Presbyterian Church is a welcoming Christian Community driven by compassion, generosity, resilience and service to others.

Breath Prayer:
INHALE: **Hear my cry, O God,** *EXHALE:* **and answer me.**



November 22, 2026
Reign of Christ

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 92 While We Are Waiting, Come

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With grace and justice, come; with grace and justice, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

* Call to Worship

One: In God's house,
All: we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
One: In God's house,
All: we may come exactly as we are.
One: In God's house,
All: we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
One: In God's house,
All: all are welcome and all are heard.
One: So come and worship.
All: God is here. God is listening.
One: Let us worship our with-us God.

*Presbyterian Hymnal 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Prayer of Confession

One: In scripture, we see people cry out to God with honesty and authenticity. The Psalmists pray, "How long, O God?" They beg, "Come and save us," and "Let your face shine upon us." From their raw honesty, we know that we can go to God with just as much honesty about the truth of our lives. So join me in the prayer of confession. Join me in this moment of truth-telling. Just as the Psalmists did, let us go to God in prayer. Let us pray:

All: Holy God, we have been known — to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, to don our favorite rose-colored glasses. We have been known — to look for the bright side, to sweep the pain under the rug, to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss. We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves. Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Family of faith, whether you pray like the Psalmists — raw and unfiltered — or you can't remember the last time you were honest with God, God still loves you. God sees you. And God longs to be in relationship. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay.

All: We are seen, forgiven, and invited—into deeper honesty and deeper relationship. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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: We are invited to bear God's love to one another in our living, in our giving, in our forgiving. May we freely share what has been given to us in Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

All: Holy God, we bring our gifts and offerings to you because in Christ you remind us of something bigger, something greater than any system this world offers us. We believe when we trust you with our resources, the kingdom of God comes much closer to reality on earth. Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life and love. Amen

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination Presbyterian Hymnal 9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel *v. 1*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

First Scripture Reading **Psalm 80:1-7** (NRSVUE)

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
4 O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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

Anthem

Second Scripture Reading **Isaiah 64:1-9** (NRSVUE)

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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 **Until the Dawn… Cry Out** *Diane Walton Hendricks*

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

***Hymn GtG 107 Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn vv 1, 2, 4**

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing;
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving-kindness.
The thunder of his anthems rolls
to shatter all hatred and violence.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

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

Sharing Our Stories: Jen Basham

Ringing 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 prayers taken or adapted from *Until the Dawn* by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
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Thanks to those leading us in worship
Hosts: Lynne Coyle and Donna Bestebreurtje
Liturgist: Rich Coyle
Prayer Notetaker: Rene Law
Technical Team: Stu Cranston
Nursery Volunteer: Lynne Coyle
Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis
Sanctuary Flowers: Open

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Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist
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